

# PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE  
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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## REPORT FROM THE TREASURER'S OFFICE

It seems that my monthly financial area reports this year have been continually changing up or down. May we were up; June we are down. I hope that this is not an indication that when the income report is good, the Church quits praying and cuts back on financial contributions. The needs are always great, and additional opportunities to preach the Gospel always seem to come. Almost every issue of THE WORLDWIDE NEWS tells of new opportunities that have just become available. Jesus said that the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. The income never seems to catch up with these needs. So please, fellows, always include a request in your daily prayers that God will abundantly supply this need.

Before the May report was off the press, the income figures for the month of June as compared to last June were way down, even negative for a while. They improved gradually throughout the month until we ended June with an increase of 6.2%. This brought our yearly increase down. For the first half of the year, it is 11.6%, which is below budget by 0.4%.

In the overall expense area, the departments collectively are doing well, even though some are unavoidably over budget, as I have mentioned. This means that our bank balances are about what they were projected to be. Unless there is a decided change in direction, we have passed our high point in these balances for this time of year, and they will probably be decreasing until the end of September.

If we all pray urgently for the finances, I am sure that following reports will be more encouraging.

--Leroy Neff, Treasurer

## FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Mr. Herbert Armstrong returned Thursday, June 27, from a very profitable and interesting series of meetings in San Francisco commemorating the signing of the United Nations Charter 40 years ago. Mr. Armstrong mentioned that much useful material was obtained by our PLAIN TRUTH representatives, Messrs. Herman Hoeh, Dexter Faulkner and Gene Hogberg, for upcoming issues of the magazine. Mr. Armstrong was also able to renew several long-time acquaintances among the high-ranking diplomatic personnel present. We'll be able to read the details in an upcoming issue of THE WORLDWIDE NEWS.

Then on Friday, June 28, Mr. Armstrong left to attend the 25th anniversary celebration of the Church in Des Moines, Iowa, on his way to visit the campers of the first session of SEP in Orr, Minnesota. As he has for the past several years, Mr. Armstrong plans to visit all three sessions at Orr this summer. These visits provide quite an encouraging boost to the youngsters, helping to orient them in the right direction, vividly showing them the real meaning and purpose in their lives and the great future that lies before them.

In a recent conversation with a field minister, he discussed with me how a fellow minister (one of his neighboring pastors) had pointed out to him a problem that was obvious to others, but that he hadn't been able to see himself. He explained how much he appreciated the concern and love, and the guts it took for his fellow minister to do what he did.

Through the years, many ministers have gone out of the ministry and out of the Body of Christ. There have been many reasons for this, but there is one common thread in the vast majority of cases. That is the fact that the sin, rebellion, bitterness, laziness, lack of wisdom, or other problem that eventually takes one out of the Church, starts out small.

In Hebrews 3:12-14 the Apostle Paul gave us a powerful admonition containing several very important lessons. In verse 12 he tells us that we must "Beware [be on guard, watch out], brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God" (RAV). Don't think it can't happen to you! In the article "Satan Use and Deceive Me? Never!", which appeared in the December 5, 1980 PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT, Mr. Armstrong explained that none of us is immune to being deceived and led away from God by the devil. Quoting Mr. Armstrong from page 1 of the article: "But do you think YOU are immune from the wiles and subtle deceptions of Satan? Are YOU stronger than Satan? DON'T SO UNWISELY UNDERESTIMATE SATAN! Satan is the strongest being or personage God ever created, except the other two archangels Michael and Gabriel. Satan DID get to the more than a half dozen top-ranking ministers in God's Church! Even though they themselves do not realize it."

Mr. Armstrong explained further on page 4 of the same article, "If you reject one point of truth, or take one step aside into a point of error--unless you repent immediately and get back to the light--you will take more and more steps into erroneous beliefs, and one by one give up the points of TRUTH you had seen and accepted." He continued, "It [some ministers leaving God's Church] started, in every case, by taking one first step in Satan's direction--compromising--becoming 'liberal'--or resenting and rebelling against GOD'S GOVERNMENT in His Church--or letting a spirit of SELF enter in--it could be self-righteousness, or self-centeredness in COVETING P O W E R."

Paul explains in verse 12 of Hebrews 3 that the thing that can cause us to depart from God is an evil heart of unbelief. Unbelief, again, starts out small. It can take many forms. It can begin, for example, with a little doubt about a doctrinal area such as tithing. This doubt can then grow into a little discontent about how money is spent, then develop into a little mistrust of the leadership of the Church. That will develop into a questioning of Mr. Armstrong's authority as God's Apostle. That will develop into nagging doubts about God's ability to lead His Church, or about God's presence in it. The next "logical" step is to go elsewhere to find something more consistent with the way one now feels. It always ends up as rejection of the Government of God, passively in some, actively in others through direct opposition or hostility.

Of course, this is only one example. Unbelief can also begin with hurt feelings, with a feeling of having been "put down," with a personality clash, with a pet idea or theory that goes unrecognized or unaccepted, etc. The list goes on and on. You can work out the progression of attitude deterioration in each case yourself. It has happened again and again through

the years. And it is happening today, and will no doubt continue to happen until Christ returns.

Now notice what Paul says in verse 13, "But exhort one another daily, while it is called 'Today,' lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin." Paul is making two points. One is to listen to such constructive exhortation before it is too late. The other is to offer spiritual help to one another before it's too late--before a problem becomes so big that it takes us out of the Body of Christ. As Paul said here, sin is deceitful. And as time passes it hardens us. We can come to the place where we won't even listen to a fellow minister's concerned exhortation.

How often has it happened that a minister had a problem that was very obvious to neighboring pastors, but nobody ever had the courage to talk directly to him about it? Consequently, so much time was allowed to pass that the man became "hardened through the deceitfulness of sin." The neighboring pastors failed to do the good that was within their ability!

We've had ministers, as Mr. Armstrong explained again in his recent WN article, who began to water down doctrine or to compromise with God's Word and eventually left God's Church. How many neighboring pastors had the courage and godly confidence to follow God's instruction to go to them about it? Many did. And sometimes they suffered for it. But didn't Paul also say, "Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution" (II Tim. 3:12)? And what about the times when a concerned reminder or exhortation from a fellow minister helped one to diligently seek God and make the necessary changes to thwart Satan's attack? Remember that regardless of the situation, God's way always works, and always works best!

Why do we so often fail to follow Paul's instruction in Hebrews 3? Do we think: Oh, he won't listen anyway, so why should I bother? But in Matthew 18:15, Christ said that if you bring a matter to your brother and he hears you, you have gained your brother. (See also James 5:19-20.) But what if he doesn't hear you? At least you have fulfilled your obligation. You have followed the instruction God has given you. And besides, the seed you plant may take root sometime much later. The real question is, do you love your brother? If you do, you will desire to help him before it is too late.

The tendency to let down, to liberalize God's Law, to become permissive, is within us all. Sometimes we need a gentle, loving "kick in the seat of the pants" to bring us to our senses! And, in fact, we should always be praying for correction and help to grow and improve. Sometimes, help from a fellow minister is the answer to that prayer.

Let's continually pray for one another. But let's also realize that there is a time when God expects us to "exhort one another." Sometimes love means doing the distasteful thing. We cannot afford to be afraid to point out an obvious problem to a fellow minister. (We are not to be watchdogs over neighboring pastors either, and any such matter should be taken to God in prayer first, seeking a humble and contrite spirit, to have the right attitude of sincerely desiring to help our fellow pastor.)

Work at helping, encouraging, supporting and strengthening one another. And be willing to listen to one another in a humble attitude. Even associate or assistant pastors, and local church elders, should be made to feel

free by their pastor to bring serious matters of concern to him, in a godly attitude of respect, humility and sincere desire to help. We cannot become so rank conscious that everyone under us is afraid to bring a problem to us, or to respectfully point out an error, or make a suggestion. Love cannot be perfected in fear.

Also remember that in situations where another minister is truly watering down doctrine, or sowing seeds of discord, or causing division, you have an absolute obligation to notify Headquarters so it can be stopped. Then we can also begin helping the individual himself to come to repentance.

In Hebrews 3:14 Paul says, "For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end." We must endure to the end. Let's bear one another's burdens through prayer, encouragement and wholehearted support. Let's let "iron sharpening iron" be a living principle in our lives.

Thanks again to each of you wives. Your support and encouragement is truly of supreme value to your husband's ministry. God made you a help. Realize that Satan would also like to get at God's people through you. So stay close to God.

You ministers, be sure each of you is giving your wife the encouragement and support she needs, reminding her always of how much you love her, and how important and valuable she is to you and your ministry. Your wife is 50% of your ministry, as Mr. Armstrong has so often said. Cultivate and strengthen that 50%. Be sure you are setting a right example spiritually for her, and providing the kind of peaceful home environment that encourages enthusiastic growth.

Keep up the good work! Pray daily for Mr. Armstrong and the work God has given him to do. I know he prays daily for all of you.

**\*\*\*\* TO BE ANNOUNCED IN U.S. AND CANADIAN CHURCHES \*\*\*\***

Booking Festival Housing From Approved Establishments

Certain housing establishments not being used by the Church have recently sent letters to Church members, soliciting business for the Feast of Tabernacles. If you received one of these letters, please ignore it and book your housing only at housing establishments listed in the 1985 FESTIVAL PLANNER.

Also, some property management companies have offered members reservations at locations not listed in the FESTIVAL PLANNER. Please do not accept these offers. If the office you call has no vacancies at an approved property, please call another establishment listed in the FESTIVAL PLANNER.

Your cooperation is very important in our efforts to obtain better facilities and rates for next year's Feast.

International News

From Mr. Leon Walker Circulation of La PURA VERDAD remained well above 200,000 until the June issue, when it declined to 174,307. This sudden drop was due to the accumulated effects of the lumping-together of several groups of subscribers as a result of the 13-issue subscription term. Since then, PV circulation has stabilized, and is expected to rise to 200,000 by the end of 1985. Circulation of the Spanish GOOD NEWS has remained in the 9 to 10,000 range after peaking at 13,098 with the January issue, after which renewals reduced circulation by 3,500.

1985 is proving to be a big year for PV lectures, much more so than 1984. A total of nine lectures have been conducted in six countries, with a total of 1,926 new people in attendance. This is already nearly the total new attendance registered for all of last year, when 2,569 new people attended ten lectures in seven countries.

More lectures are scheduled after the Feast of Tabernacles for La Paz, Bolivia; Panama City, Panama; and San Juan, Puerto Rico, as well as six cities throughout Mexico. Other lectures may be scheduled later in the year in Central America, Colombia and Argentina. Total new attendance is expected to be near 4,000, which would surpass the 3,707 who attended PV lectures in 1983. Reports from ministers indicate that over 200 people are now attending Sabbath services or Bible studies as a result of lectures held since 1982.

Two Ambassador College graduates are returning to Mexico to serve as ministerial trainees. Saul Langarica will go to northern Mexico to work with Mr. Gilberto Marin, pastor of the Ciudad Juarez and Chihuahua churches. Felipe Neri will work with Mr. Pablo Dimakis, pastor of the Guadalajara and Tepic churches. Mr. Francisco Hui will move from Tepic to the Monterrey area, where he will assist Mr. Alfredo Mercado.

Mr. Fernando Barriga, pastor of the Tijuana and Mexicali, Mexico churches, was raised to the rank of preaching elder in January during the Ministerial Refreshing Program. Mr. Carlos Espinoza, formerly a local church elder, was employed full time in April to assist Mr. Alberto Sousa, who has been in desperate need of help. Mr. Sousa pastors the Ezeiza, Argentina, and Salto, Uruguay churches, and conducts Bible studies in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Also, Mr. Mario Seiglie, pastor of the Santiago, Chile church, ordained Mr. Fermin Nain a deacon on April 20. Mr. Nain is currently the only deacon in any of the Spanish-language churches outside of Mexico and Puerto Rico.

There are currently 1,955 co-workers and 3,998 donors on the Spanish mailing list, both of which are all-time highs! Since the beginning of the year, co-workers have increased by 12.6% and donors by 10.7%. Some of the greatest growth in these categories has been seen in Mexico, where co-workers and donors have increased by 42% and 11% respectively.

Year-to-date figures show 1,104 members in the Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking countries, a 4.4% increase, with 60 baptisms (29 in Mexico).

The Bible correspondence course, which peaked at 15,000 last year, declined to 8,000 earlier this year due to the enactment of the testing system. The number of active students has been steadily rising since then, and currently stands at 10,806.

Advertising in READER'S DIGEST has continued this year with ads in the Spain issues of March and May. The March ad has resulted in 3,200 responses at a cost of \$1.94 per response. Unfortunately, READER'S DIGEST has virtually closed down its operation in Spain, where its circulation was as high as 410,000 less than a year ago. Effective July, READER'S DIGEST circulation in Spain will be only 30,000. This development is a serious blow to proclaiming the Gospel in Spain since READER'S DIGEST ads in Spain have produced nearly 17,000 responses at a very low cost.

Ads are planned for the June READER'S DIGEST in Chile, Brazil and Ecuador, and in the July READER'S DIGEST in the Mexican and Puerto Rico/Dominican Republic editions. The Mexican ad alone is expected to pull over 10,000 responses. More ads are planned later in the year.

Most Spanish-language Feast sites for 1985 have been determined. They are as follows:

| <u>Site</u>                | <u>Areas in Attendance</u>       |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Monte Hermoso, Argentina   | Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay       |
| Antigua, Guatemala         | El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras |
| Maitencillo, Chile         | Chile                            |
| Melgar, Colombia           | Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela     |
| Liberia, Costa Rica        | Costa Rica, Panama               |
| Acapulco, Mexico           | Mexico plus transfers            |
| Puerto Rico (undetermined) | Puerto Rico                      |
| Cullera, Spain             | Spain, Portugal                  |
| Huaraz, Peru               | Peru, Ecuador                    |

From Mr. Stan Bass The end of the college school year has brought a couple of significant changes in the Caribbean office. First, we have begun to print The GOOD NEWS at Ambassador Press in Radlett, England. This places both major magazines at the same printer. We do not foresee any significant delays as a result of the change.

Connie Deily, a 1984 Ambassador College graduate, has been our secretary/receptionist since her graduation. Unfortunately for us and fortunately for Mr. Dale Bailey of Facilities Management in Big Sandy, Connie will become his lead administrative secretary June 17. To replace her we have hired Roxanne Tidmore, a 1985 Ambassador graduate.

Reports on the Pentecost Holy Day offerings are mostly in and show an overall increase for the Caribbean region. The best increase comes from Jamaica, with a 196% increase over the previous year. Barbados had an encouraging offering of 36% over 1984, followed by Trinidad with a 25% increase. In general, offerings have been on the upswing this year.

We are continuing to closely monitor our monthly radio and television responses with an eye to saving money by using our resources more effectively. Television stations in Trinidad and Jamaica continue to have the best response with 246 and 562 responses respectively. Bahamas ZNS-TV had 136

responses, which compares very favorably with responses from the two radio stations for the same month. At present we are on ten television stations and four radio stations, not counting the cable stations, many of which are seen in the Caribbean.

Jamaica, one of the larger Caribbean islands, is also the home of a thriving Church congregation. From a modest start in 1975, the Church now has an attendance of 283, 131 of which are baptized members, and two deacons. Along with church services in Kingston, three Bible studies are held in Jamaica: a twice monthly meeting in Mandeville, a monthly meeting in Ocho Rios, and in Montego Bay every three months. Recently, response to the television program has been overwhelming and still continues even though we are no longer on the station! The local office reports 68 visit requests for the first three months of the year. Many other visit requests are still coming in. All this activity keeps the sole pastor Mr. Charles Fleming and his wife Carmen extremely busy. Mr. Fleming, a native of Grenada, has served in the Jamaica congregation since 1978. He also directs the local office.

Despite worsening economic conditions, which are illustrated by an unemployment rate of over 20% and an inflation rate of nearly 30%, God continues to look after His people. Mr. Fleming reports positive attitudes and renewed commitment to God's work. The offerings for this year have all been encouraging, culminating in a Pentecost offering that showed a per person increase of 158%. We all look forward to continued growth in spreading the Gospel in Jamaica.

--Joseph Tkach, Ministerial Services

#### UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSING

#### Weekend TV Calls Average 12,400

Response to "The WORLD TOMORROW" telecast for the first six months of 1985 averaged 12,400 calls per weekend. This average would have been considered a near-record number just one year ago.

Although the TV audience is often smaller during the summer, we received an outstanding response of 14,834 calls this past weekend (June 29-30) for the program "Where Are World Events Headed?" This was the eighth highest weekend total and the highest ever for a summer telecast.

The following table compares weekend responses for the first six months of 1984 and 1985:

| <u>Number of Calls</u>         | <u>No. of Weekends</u> |             |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|-------------|
|                                | <u>1984</u>            | <u>1985</u> |
| Over 16,000                    | 0                      | 4*          |
| 14,000 to 16,000               | 0                      | 4           |
| 12,000 to 14,000               | 3                      | 7           |
| 10,000 to 12,000               | 5                      | 3           |
| Under 10,000                   | 18                     | 8           |
| Total TV Calls                 | 263,134                | 366,014     |
| Weekend Average (January-June) | 8,150                  | 12,400      |

\*Including one weekend over 18,000

YES Lessons 8 and 9 to Be Mailed Soon

The final YES Lessons for the 1984-85 year (Lessons 8 and 9) will be mailed in the U.S. about July 22. After that date, all children who are currently enrolled will automatically be moved up to the next level. Lesson 1 for the 1985-86 year will be sent during the last week of July.

Any children who wish to begin receiving YES lessons should be added to our files right away so they will receive Lesson 1. Parents may enroll their children by calling our toll-free number (800-423-4444). The following list shows which level corresponds to each age and school grade.

| <u>Level</u> | <u>Age</u> | <u>Grade in School</u> |
|--------------|------------|------------------------|
| 1            | 5          | Kindergarten           |
| 2            | 6          | First                  |
| 3            | 7          | Second                 |
| 4            | 8          | Third                  |
| 5            | 9          | Fourth                 |
| 6            | 10         | Fifth                  |
| 7            | 11         | Sixth                  |
| 8            | 12         | Seventh                |
| 9            | 13         | Eighth                 |

As a reminder, Level 1 lessons should be requested for children who will reach the age of five by the end of this December. Also, young people beyond the eighth grade may want to consider enrolling in the regular Bible correspondence course.

Mr. Armstrong's Pentecost Sermon Stirs Members to Action

More members than usual have written in to thank Mr. Armstrong for his Pentecost sermon. The truth about their becoming teachers in the World Tomorrow has never been made so clear to them. Many said they would now concentrate on preparing for this great responsibility. Following are some of the comments we received:

I am writing to tell you how much I appreciated hearing the sermon you gave on Pentecost. You clearly brought out the purpose of our calling and it really made an impact on me. I am sure that you have expressed the same in times past but it didn't hit home.

In the last few years, I have really been having trouble understanding my purpose for being called. Just to save my own life did not seem to be enough.... All the messages we've been hearing bring out some really good points, but that sermon may have been a lifesaver for me. To know that I was called to serve and help others, not just for my salvation, really gave purpose and meaning to my life.

I really want to try harder now to do my part in learning God's way so I may help and serve.... Thank you so very much. That is a subject I do hope we hear repeated often.

Member (Llano, TX)



Last Sabbath, we heard your taped Pentecost sermon. Mr. Armstrong, please don't be discouraged. Because of that sermon and the excellent ministry in our area, we are beginning to understand more about how we must not be hearers only but also doers of God's Word and the work!

D.H. (Woodhull, IL)

I really got a lot out of the tape of your Pentecost sermon, as did many others I talked to. You have so much love and concern for the brethren. I'm really going to try harder than ever to learn more of God's Word to be able to teach others some day.

Mrs. H.T. (Springfield, MO)

We heard your tape made on Pentecost last Sabbath. When you said you sometimes got discouraged with us, I cried! Please don't give up on us. We are dumb sheep, thoughtless at times, but, as for myself, I love and pray for you, and hope with all my heart I can be with you in the World Tomorrow and the Kingdom.

Mrs. I.R. (Burton, MI)

Just a short note once again to thank you so very much for your Feast of Unleavened Bread and Pentecost tapes. I truly hope we will "get it," and really understand that we are called to be teachers. To teach the way and Word of our Living God. If we all collectively pray toward that end, I know God will open up our minds to truly understand what He's trying to get across to us through you, Mr. Armstrong. Thank you again so much. Please take good care of yourself. We are praying for you always.

L.B. (Belle Fourche, SD)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

#### ON THE WORLD SCENE

COMMON MARKET SPLIT; MORE ON THE POPE'S EASTERN POLICY;  
PORNOGRAPHIC ROCK; THE SOFT WEST

The heads of government of the 10-nation European Community held a summit conference in Milan, Italy, last weekend. As a result of this conference, pressure is building to rewrite portions of the 1957 Treaty of Rome in order to streamline the decision-making processes--specifically to introduce some form of majority voting in order to overcome the veto logjam, increasingly a problem due to the size of the EC, soon to be 12 members. The prospect of important legislation failing even though eleven states approve of it is troubling to many members, specifically the "original six" continental powers. The method for introducing change, however, is putting the continentals on one side and the British, Danes and Greeks (who can't agree on anything, it seems) on the other. Here is a report (titled "Europeans OK Talks to Revise Treaty") on this development as given by Don Cook in the June 30 LOS ANGELES TIMES:

Over strong opposition from Britain, Greece and Denmark, heads of government of the 10-nation European Community voted here Saturday to convene a special conference in October to draft amendments to its founding document, the...Treaty of Rome, with the aim of strengthening European unity.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher argued long, hard and in vain for two days that leaders of the community, or Common Market, should make a series of simple "pragmatic decisions" now instead of getting into another conference and the problems of treaty ratification. "This has not been an easy conference," Thatcher said at a news briefing late Saturday night. "We from Britain came here with high hopes. We are a very practical people. We have negotiated with our partners for years, and we were prepared to take decisions which would have made progress in the community on practical steps forward."...

However, in prevailing on a 7-3 vote, French President Francois Mitterrand, West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi maintained a solid front against the British. Ireland, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg lined up with them in the determination to go further in changing "the constitution" of the community than Britain is prepared to go.

Never before has a vote been taken in a heads of government meeting to decide any specific question, let alone an issue of fundamental importance such as proceeding to treaty revision. Far from improving the picture of European unity, this summit has reopened the old split between the original six who created the Common Market and the newcomers of the last decade, the British foremost among them.

Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou bluntly told the conference after the vote that his country will have nothing to do with any treaty revision and will not take part in the intergovernment conference.

Although Thatcher was harsh in her condemnation of the meeting's outcome, she made it clear that Britain will "play its full part" in the conference, although she added that she is very pessimistic about the probable results. She pointed to the difficulties of reaching the required unanimous agreement on treaty amendments.... However, Craxi, who chaired this summit at the end of six months of the Italian presidency of the community, called the outcome "a significant success" and declared, "We have today taken a decision that is important, necessary and decisive for the future of a united Europe."

At the heart of the matter is the issue of how community decision-making can be improved with greater use of majority voting and restrictions on the use of the veto. All governments, except possibly the Greeks, are agreed that with the entry of Spain and Portugal into the community in January, 1986, majority voting must start to become normal practice, if not a fixed rule.

The British sought to achieve this pragmatically, by agreeing here to new rules under existing treaty provisions. But the original six community members--France, West Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg--plus Ireland, want to amend the treaty and take a new look at other treaty articles, which they believe to be out of date. The continental bloc also wants to draw up an additional treaty on political cooperation in the

areas of foreign policy, defense and security that are not covered by the Treaty of Rome--another list of subjects on which the British would prefer to deal, case by case, with cooperative agreements instead of getting involved in negotiations for treaty changes.

### Pope Presses Eastern Europe Theme

In this column last week we reported on the attachment of Pope John Paul II to the importance of bringing the Eastern European societies into "spiritual union" with the rest of Europe. In this connection the Pope, who proudly identifies himself as "the first Slavic pope" has designated the brothers Methodius and Cyril, two early Catholic missionaries to the Slavic peoples, as patron saints in Europe.

Following up this process, the Pope on July 2 devoted the fourth encyclical of his papacy to the work of the two ninth century saints. John Paul is obviously pressing hard on the theme of what he calls the church's "spiritual solidarity" with the Slavic world. Here is a report on the encyclical as received over our AP wire on July 2, 1985:

VATICAN CITY (AP) -- Pope John Paul II on Tuesday extended his hopes for solidarity to fellow Slavs in the East Bloc, appealing for religious freedom and for efforts to overcome divisions in Europe. In the fourth encyclical of his papacy, the Polish-born pontiff lauded two ninth century saints who brought Christianity to the Slavs and set down his vision of a Europe spiritually united by a common culture and religion.

John Paul said he hopes that "when ideological conflicts have been conquered" Europe "may be for the whole world an example of just and peaceful coexistence in mutual respect and inviolate liberty." The Pope's 47-page letter was phrased in milder terms than he has sometimes used to denounce human rights violations in Poland and elsewhere in the Soviet bloc.

At a news conference, Vatican-based Czechoslovak Cardinal Jozef Tomko conceded the Pope's language was guarded, saying this was due in part to the "delicate situation" the church faced in the east. He did not elaborate. "Tough words would only have been counter-productive," said a Vatican source who spoke on condition that his name not be used.

The encyclical was issued just before a visit to Czechoslovakia by the Vatican secretary of state, Cardinal Agostino Casaroli, for a commemoration ceremony July 7 marking the work of the saints. Casaroli flew to Yugoslavia on Tuesday en route to Czechoslovakia. The Pope alluded to Czechoslovakia's failure to invite him to the commemorations, saying he desired "to be present at least spiritually."

The encyclical, entitled "Slavorum Apostoli" (Apostles of the Slavs), was issued in commemoration of the ninth-century evangelizing work of Saints Cyril and Methodius. An encyclical is a papal letter informing the church and its members of matters of importance. John Paul, noting he is the first Slavic pope,

traced the evangelization of the Slavs in regions that are now Poland, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania, Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union. He said the whole church "professes her spiritual solidarity" with the Slavic nations.

John Paul said the two saints--brothers who were born in the Byzantine city now called Salonika in Greece--were "the connecting links or spiritual bridge between the Eastern and Western traditions, which both come together in the one great tradition of the universal church.... Not even today does there exist any other way of overcoming tensions and repairing the divisions and antagonism both in Europe and in the world which threaten to cause a frightful destruction of lives and values," he wrote.

### Pornographic Rock

The following is a shocking article showing just how bad rock music is becoming. Titled "Stop Pornographic Rock," it was written in the May 6, 1985 issue of NEWSWEEK by a guest columnist, Kandy Stroud. Mrs. Stroud is a free-lance journalist who also sings with the Washington D.C. Choral Arts Society. (Mr. David Hulme referred to this article in his sermon on liberalism that was circulated to the churches. Because of the explicit nature of some of the quoted material, I caution you, as did Mr. Hulme, in how you handle this information publicly.)

My 15-year-old daughter unwittingly alerted me to the increasingly explicit nature of rock music. "You've got to hear this, Mom!" she insisted one afternoon, fast-forwarding Prince's "Purple Rain" to the song "Darling Nikki." "But don't listen to the words," she added, an instant tip-off to pay attention. The beat was hard and pulsating, the music burlesque in feeling, as Prince, who has sold more than 9 million copies of "Purple Rain," began:

"I knew a girl named Nikki; I guess u could say she was a sex fiend; I met her in a hotel lobby; masturbating with a magazine."

Unabashedly sexual lyrics like these, augmented by orgasmic moans and howls, compose the musical diet millions of children are now being fed at concerts, on albums, on radio and MTV. Rock stations may play Sheena Easton's latest hit, "Sugar Walls," as many as a dozen times a day. "I hate this song," my 13-year-old, rock-crazed son muttered on the way from school one day as he inadvertently tuned in Easton's lewd and crude song about genital arousal. My own Mr. Cool was visibly embarrassed. Embarrassed? I almost drove off the road....

Rock... [did not take] an erotic turn overnight. Elvis Presley was bumping and grinding his way through "Heartbreak Hotel" 30 years ago. "I Can't Get No Satisfaction," by the Rolling Stones, was no innocent ditty. But innuendo has given way to the overt....

"Feels so good inside," squeals Madonna on her triple-platinum album, "Like a Virgin." Rock's latest "it" girl hardly touts virginal innocence, as one can gather from her gyrations and undulations on Friday-night video shows. "Relax when you want to

come," the English group Frankie Goes to Hollywood wails on "Relax," now the fourth-best-selling record in British history, a lofty position that being banned by the BBC did much to ensure. On the album "Defenders of the Faith," the group Judas Priest sings "Eat Me Alive," which deals with a girl being forced to commit oral sex at gunpoint. In "Ten Seconds to Love," Motley Crue croons about intercourse on an elevator. In concert, W.A.S.P.'s lead singer, Blackie Lawless, has appeared on stage wearing a codpiece [a flap over the fly] with a buzz-saw blade between his thighs. During "The Torture Never Stops," Lawless pretends to pummel a woman dressed in a G-string and black hood, and, as fake blood cascades from the hood, he attacks her with the blade.

Aristotle said music has the power to form character. The Bach B-minor Mass can be a link with the eternal. But while music can ennoble and inspire, it can also degrade. Some drug programs forbid teen-age patients to attend rock concerts or even to sport the T shirts of rock groups. Some schools where smoking and drinking are prohibited have added rock music to the list of taboos....

Dr. Joseph Novello, director of a drug program in Washington, says one of the questions he asks his teen-age patients is what kind of music they listen to. Whether it's satanic, sexual or drug-oriented--it tells him something about the child's state of mind. In like manner, he says, parents have an obligation to be aware of their children's musical tastes and "if you take exception to the words, don't allow them to listen."

Surprisingly, the majority of parents I've spoken to have expressed partial or total ignorance of the music their children are dancing to, doing homework to, falling asleep to. Most claim they don't listen to rock or can't understand the words if they do. They also admit that they don't want to add another item to the laundry list of things they already monitor--movies, books, magazines, parties, friends, homework.

Are the parents of our young people also ignorant, almost willingly so, of what their children may be listening to?

#### The Soft West

Finally, we present two paragraphs from a book I purchased while in San Francisco for the U.N. review conference. Titled THE GERMAN WARS, it deals primarily with the 1914-1945 period. However, in the last chapter, the author, D.J. Goodspeed, reflects on what has happened to Western society in the four decades since the end of the last global conflict.

In the "liberal" societies of the West the eunuchs are inheriting the earth. This can be seen in a new and excessive tenderness toward criminals, in the abolition of capital punishment, in the rejection of all forms of discipline, and in a softness that denounces the validity of all objective standards and the renunciation of all sanctions.... Nor is it surprising that the softness

that has crept over the West since 1945 has been accompanied by cowardice and cruelty, the hallmarks of the soft. It's no accident that the same states that refuse to put a murderer to death have generally been ready to encourage the murder of unborn innocents. Morality has been stood on its head in the name of compassion....

Probably what the world is witnessing in this century is the death of a civilization.... The [world] wars were not entirely responsible for this, though without them life could probably have been maintained. What was begun by murder is now being completed by suicide [a reference, perhaps, to the famous book about liberalism, James Burnham's THE SUICIDE OF THE WEST]. Major military confrontation between communism and democracy has been rendered less probable by the threat of nuclear annihilation, and, as the West continues to decline, conflict becomes less necessary for a decision. The heirs of Christendom have become more materialistic than the dialectical materialists, and are therefore less vital and less able to sustain life. The East can afford to sit by our sickbed for a time, secure in the knowledge that softness and corruption are the harbingers of death.

It should come as no surprise that a culture that slaps criminals on the wrist would have difficulty in knowing how to deal with international criminals such as hardened terrorists.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau