

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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FROM CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

MR. ARMSTRONG'S SERMON; ILLNESS, PREGNANCY AND FEAST
ATTENDANCE; TAX DEDUCTIONS; AFRICA; PRAYER; EARTHQUAKE

Mr. Herbert Armstrong delivered the afternoon sermon in the Ambassador Auditorium on the Feast of Trumpets this past Monday, September 16. Mr. Armstrong was in his usual form, speaking powerfully about the momentous events just ahead of us when Jesus Christ will return in great glory to take the helm of rulership of all nations. The sermon will be mailed out for all pastors to play in their congregations. As with the tapes mentioned in the last "Pastor General's Report," you should plan to play this one after the Feast. It would also be appropriate to use this one before the other two, even though it is a more recent message.

As the Feast is now only days away, pastors should again remind the brethren that anyone with a communicable illness should not attend. If a person is ill with a cold, flu, cough or other illness that can be spread to others, he or she should not come to any Church service or activity. The same applies to children. If a child has a contagious illness, he or she should not be brought to services. Members should not come to services to be anointed. They should call for a minister to come to wherever they are staying. If there is any doubt about whether to come to services when ill, or whether to bring a sick child, members should call a minister. Ministers, of course, are not doctors, and should not advise as if they were doctors. They should advise anyone whose symptoms seem to indicate a communicable illness to stay home (or in their motel) until he or she is well, or until a medical doctor diagnoses the illness as not being contagious.

Occasionally a baby will have symptoms from teething that resemble those of a cold but are not--such as a runny nose, slight fever or diarrhea. Parents in God's Church should not assume their baby is only teething and therefore allow other children to be exposed to him at services or Church activities. Babies exhibiting such symptoms should be kept at

home if for no other reason than to avoid setting a wrong example for others who may not realize the baby is only teething. It is not wise or right in God's sight to take chances with the health and well-being of others.

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As Mr. Armstrong has explained (see "Pastor General's Report," August 17, 1984), if a person who has a contagious illness is anointed, he should wait until all symptoms are gone and he is totally well before coming back to services. Let him be healed on the strength of his faith, but he should not return to services until every physical symptom is gone, and the healing is complete. Otherwise he could possibly expose others.

God's law is a law of love. It is based upon true concern for the good and well-being of others. God Himself authored the laws of quarantine in the ancient nation of Israel. Those laws are based on love for fellowman. As God's spiritual Israelites today, we do not want to become inconsiderate or selfish by attending services or activities when we have illnesses that can be spread to others.

Also, regarding pregnant women attending the Feast, we reprint the following excerpt from a letter dated September 14, 1962, by Mr. Herbert Armstrong.

In past years some pregnant women have journeyed to the Festival and had their baby delivered at the Festival. This is very DANGEROUS to such a woman and her unborn child.

Therefore, NO WOMAN who is to be as much as eight months along by the end of the Feast should attend.

Also, any woman just a few months along in pregnancy should be very CAUTIOUS about whether she attends the Feast at all! The period from two to five months pregnancy is the time when most miscarriages occur. The higher altitudes and colder climate at Squaw Valley [a Feast site in 1962] might be too much for some during this period. Big Sandy is oppressively hot, with sudden change in temperature if a "norther" should blow in. DON'T RISK MISCARRIAGE OF A PRECIOUS LIFE! REMEMBER, God does not lay the same stress on attendance of women as He does men. USE WISDOM! Check up with the doctor who is to deliver your baby.

On another subject, the question has been asked whether every church member is automatically appointed as an "official designated representative" to attend the Feast of Tabernacles. The answer is no. Hence, unless specifically appointed by Headquarters, the lay church members are not authorized to deduct, on their income tax, their expenses incurred in attending the Feast of Tabernacles on the theory of being an officially designated representative.

Mr. Frank Brown returned recently from a trip to East Africa, and reported that the morale of God's people there remains high despite their many problems. He requests that we all continue to pray for our brethren in Africa. He explained that they "need to know they are not alone in a world that can appear very hostile."

Turmoil from guerrilla activity continues to affect the whole country of Uganda. Sad to say, it looks as though the Feast will have to be canceled there this year. Not only would it be dangerous to conduct

the Feast, but we will not be able to get ministers in to conduct services. There is also the likelihood that the Feast site will be commandeered by the military for their own use. Mr. Brown wrote, "This is a great pity as we had anticipated an attendance of about 85 and it would have been the first time a full eight-day Feast had been held there." We look forward with great zeal to the day when the government of God will rule the earth and everyone will be able to keep the Feast in perfect peace! More details of Mr. Brown's trip will appear in the next issue of "The Worldwide News."

The recent coup in Nigeria occurred without affecting our members there. Mr. David Stirk, who assists Mr. Brown in overseeing the African churches, reported: "Nigeria has been going through a period of austerity, which has brought considerable distress to its inhabitants. This in turn has seriously damaged the income of the work in Nigeria. It is hoped that this new government will ease the burden of its peoples a little, thus enabling its economy to revive somewhat and with it, God willing, the work's income."

We need to be praying for God's work in Nigeria, as the financial situation is still bleak. Mr. Stirk also reported that Mr. Elijah Chukwudi seems to be steadily recuperating. Mr. Chukwudi is grateful for our prayers and asks that we continue to remember him.

I'd also like to request that you pray for Mrs. Robin Hulme. Though she has been gravely ill for several weeks, her spirits are high as she remains faithful and steadfast, relying on God for His promise of healing. Please join all of us at Headquarters in asking God for His intervention.

I hope and pray that all of you have a wonderful Feast of Tabernacles! Please continue praying for those who will be speaking, as well as for the safety and protection of God's people at the 93 Feast sites in 51 countries. Remember to pray for Mr. Armstrong's live message on the first Holy Day, both for him and for the successful transmission of his message to all receiving sites.

Mr. Armstrong and all of us here at Headquarters deeply appreciate your continued faithful support and hard work as you yield yourselves to God in His service.

P.S. As we go to press, the latest word we have received about the massive earthquake off the west coast of central Mexico is that Acapulco was spared major damage and that the Feast site there is still "go." Also, our office manager in Mexico City, Mr. Tom Turk, is safe. We do not yet have word on how our members in the affected areas have fared. Please pray for God's protection and safety for them.

To Be Announced In All Churches

Because of shortages of Bible hymnals at some Festival sites, the Festival Office reminds us that all brethren should take their personally owned hymnals with them to the Feast. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

Following are guest speaker assignments for United States and International Feast sites for 1985.

Canada

Victoria and Penticton	Leroy Neff
Regina and Niagara	John Bald
Prince Edward Island	Arthur Docken

Caribbean

England	Raymond McNair
Bonndorf	Rod Meredith, James Chapman
Cracow	George Meeker, Richard Paige
Brno	Victor Kubik, Vince Szymkowiak
Jerusalem	Tom Root
	Roger Foster, Frank McCrady Jr.,
	Glen White

Ghana, Nigeria

Uganda, Malawi	Harold Jackson
South Africa	Abner Washington
India, Sri Lanka	Les McCullough
Malaysia	Dexter Faulkner
China	Robert League
Australia	John Halford, Hal Baird
New Zealand	Dean Blackwell
Philippines	Fred Kellers
	Herman Hoeh

United States

Anchorage	Greg Albrecht
Big Sandy	Richard Rice
Biloxi	Ellis La Ravia, Gerald Waterhouse
Corpus Christi	Ron Kelly
Dayton	Jim Friddle, Selmer Hegvold
Eugene	Donald Ward
Jekyll Island	David Albert
Johnson City	Charles Bryce
Lake of the Ozarks	Michael Feazell
Lihue, Hawaii	Gary Antion
Mount Pocono	Francis Bergin
Norfolk	Larry Salyer
Pasadena	Joseph Tkach, David Hulme
Pensacola	Gerald Waterhouse, Ellis La Ravia
Rapid City	Dennis Luker, Arthur Suckling
Sacramento	Clint Zimmerman
St. Petersburg	Richard Ames
Saratoga Springs	Norman Smith
Spokane	Richard Thompson
Tucson	Dean Wilson
Vail	David Wainwright, Don Lawson
Wisconsin Dells	Robert Fahey

BLESSING OF CHILDREN DATE

As most of you remember, several years ago Mr. Armstrong set the second sabbath after the Feast as a perpetual date for the Blessing of Children ceremony. Therefore, the Blessing of Children ceremony will be held on Sabbath, October 19, in all churches.

--Joseph Tkach, Church Administration

MEDIA PURCHASING UPDATE

HONG KONG TELEVISION RESPONSE

The first responses are now beginning to come in for The World Tomorrow program in Hong Kong, which began airing there in August.

The responses, for now anyway, must come in a rather unusual manner. The World Tomorrow was the first religious program to be accepted on Hong Kong's English-language channel, TVB Pearl. But there was one catch. Hong Kong's Secretary of the Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority, Pritam Singh, accepted the content of the program but refused permission to offer free literature on the air. So ads were taken out in the TV section of The South China Morning Post and in Hong Kong's TV & Entertainment Times magazine. The ads serve a two-fold purpose: 1) invite viewers to tune in to the program, and 2) offer free literature related to the program.

The first such ad in The South China Morning Post brought in 176 requests for "The Plain Truth" and two booklets, "The United States and Britain in Prophecy" and "Revelation Unveiled at Last." It is interesting to note that the first issue of TV & Entertainment Times that carried one of our ads also carried an article announcing Mr. Singh's resignation from his position as head of the Licensing Authority. Perhaps his successor will grant us permission to offer free literature over the air. Until then, the present system seems to be working fine.

--David Hulme, Media Purchasing

FROM EDITORIAL SERVICES

DECEMBER GN; GN CIRCULATION; GN INTRODUCTORY ISSUE; YES UPDATE; WN FEAST COVERAGE

Greetings from Editorial. Time never goes so fast as it does when you work with publications. Actually, the staff is experiencing Feast fever for the second time. We work so far in advance on the Festival editions that we get excited about the Feast of Tabernacles in the middle of the summer. By the way, it was the best Feast ever.

It is difficult to believe, but the December "Good News" marks the completion of the seventh year since Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong restarted the magazine in its current format. This issue features the annual index of both "The Plain Truth" and "The Good News," along with helpful articles on the Sabbath and Christmas.

In future issues we plan to run more articles of a prophetic, news-oriented nature. The focus will be on looking forward to the positive solutions just ahead of us. Mr. Armstrong's new booklet "Who or What Is the Prophetic Beast?" will be running serially beginning with the October-November edition through February.

Circulation of "The Good News" has grown to more than 700,000, which has generated in "GN" mail a heavy new-reader trend--requests for basic articles.

Also, because of our rapid growth Mr. Armstrong has enthusiastically approved the production of an introductory issue of "The Good News." The introductory issue will be a special undated issue sent out immediately to new subscribers, allowing them to enter the magazine's normal mailing cycle as quickly and as smoothly as possible.

This magazine will be made up of articles previously run in "The Good News." Bible instruction, prophecy, family, Christian living will all be covered. An ad for the Correspondence Course and an ad for "GN" subscriptions will also be included. We have been using an introductory "Plain Truth" for quite a while, and it has proved to be very successful.

Some of you in the field have mentioned that you felt an introductory issue of "The Good News" would be a good gift and public relations piece for use when you visit prospective members. If you are interested in using the introductory issue in this way, let us know and we will check on sending you this edition in bulk. We are shooting for a January production date.

In the Youth Educational Services lesson production, Mr. Kevin Dean has approved a revising and updating of the Fall Festival lessons during this coming year. Also, Lesson 10 is tentatively scheduled for mailing in May, 1986, and Lesson 11 in June.

We will continue mailing to you your sets of Youth Lessons throughout the rest of this academic year, as additional changes in text and Bible memory are made.

So much is happening in the Church that we are having a difficult time getting all the information into the standard 12-page format of "The Worldwide News." We met with evangelists Joseph Tkach Sr. and Ellis La Ravia, and Mark McCulley, Festival-planning coordinator, Sept. 4 to discuss coverage of the Feast. The first issue after the Feast is scheduled to be printed Nov. 4.

We are spreading out around the globe for the Feast this year. "The Worldwide News" will be represented by staff members in India, Sri Lanka, West Germany, Scotland, South Africa, Hawaii, Vail, Colo., Eugene, Ore., Penticton, B.C., and Johnson City, Tenn. We look forward to seeing and working with some of you in these areas. Have a joyful and profitable Feast!

--Dexter Faulkner, Editorial Services

PUBLISHING SERVICES UPDATE**MASSIVE AD CAMPAIGN TO INTRODUCE "MYSTERY OF THE AGES"**

A massive national advertising and publicity campaign is now under way promoting Mr. Armstrong's "Mystery of the Ages" book in leading trade journals, major metropolitan newspapers and weekly suburban papers. Ads and press coverage will run through the end of November, 1985.

This campaign represents the biggest media blitz in this era of God's work promoting one of Mr. Armstrong's books.

The campaign began with the August 30 edition of Publisher's Weekly featuring a two-color, two-page ad promoting the book to booksellers, wholesalers, libraries and other key publishing people. Publisher's Weekly is considered "the journal of the book industry," reaching more than 39,000 key "opinion-makers" in the publishing field. It is distributed into 97 countries.

In addition to ads in Publisher's Weekly and other leading trade journals, we are now distributing 1,000 press kits and 400 review copies of the book to leading major metropolitan newspapers, book review editors and magazine editors. This kit contains a feature article about the book, and a biography and photograph of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong. Four thousand suburban weekly newspapers will also be receiving a feature article about Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong and the book.

We expect most of the press coverage to be in the weekly newspapers. We could receive up to 400 newspaper articles as a result of this campaign.

The purpose of this campaign, as directed by Mr. Armstrong, was to introduce his book to "hardback book buyers" who would not normally be reached by either the television program or free offers in the Church's publications. There is a highly educated group of bookbuyers in America who normally would not respond to a free book offer nor have a keen interest in religious material. Mr. Armstrong felt that the Gospel message contained in his book is so vital that it should be made available to all groups of people. These avid bookbuyers are primarily reached through consumer advertising and by making the book available in bookstores.

A full-page Wall Street Journal ad will also run on October 15 promoting the book. In addition, ads will also appear in the top 25 newspaper markets, including the prestigious New York Times, the Chicago Sun Times, Chicago Tribune, the Los Angeles Times, the Washington Post and Des Moines Register.

It is entirely possible that this massive media exposure could be a springboard to open up additional doors for Mr. Armstrong to preach the Gospel within the United States. This campaign will be reaching the top people in the publishing and media industry.

--Ray Wright, Publishing Services

UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSING

WATS IN-HOME PROGRAM; FEAST INQUIRIES;
BIBLE STUDY VOLUME IV; FEAST FEVER

More than 350 Southern California brethren have now been trained to take WATS calls in their homes. Another 400 are being instructed in California and Arizona churches. By the Feast of Tabernacles, about 750 members will have been thoroughly trained to take literature requests.

In accomplishing this task, we send teams of qualified personnel to each local area. They present three separate lectures covering all aspects of properly answering calls in response to the telecast. Slide shows, tapes of sample calls and a detailed manual supplement these lectures.

In-home operators answer calls only during peak response periods, immediately following the telecast. Approximately 1,100 calls are now taken each weekend, or 8 percent of the total calls received.

The outlook for future expansion of the in-home program is excellent. Recent tests have shown that we can transfer calls several hundred miles, with almost no loss in volume. We are also working with the phone company to give us the capability to expand the WATS in-home program across the nation. After these technicalities are worked out, we plan to begin training members in other states. With the help of these volunteers, many more viewers will be able to get through on our telephone lines. Church members are thrilled to be part of the phone-answering team.

We have received a number of letters from subscribers and co-workers asking about the Feast of Tabernacles. Most requests for information come from people who have read about the Feast in "The Good News" magazine. Some want to know how to properly keep this Festival. A few even asked how they can make reservations. Some of the questions asked are:

- "Where's the closest location I can observe God's Holy Days?"
- "Is an unbaptized person permitted to attend?"
- "Can I be baptized at the Feast?"

These people are informed that details about attending the Feast are available through the local minister. We also send a copy of Mr. Armstrong's booklet about God's Holy Days if the person does not already have it.

On another subject, all new literature is normally sent to the ministry first class. However, since postage rates are determined by weight, the cost of mailing "The Bible Story" is considerable. Therefore, we request that you pick up your personal copy at the Feast site you'll be attending. You should have already received a claim check for the book with your Holy Day offering envelopes. Thanks for your understanding.

Finally, as the Feast of Tabernacles approaches, the reality of God's Kingdom more clearly comes into focus. Many members of the Church and their children have written in to Mr. Armstrong over the past several weeks to express their excitement and anticipation.

Here are a few recent letters:

Well, here we are another month closer to God's Holy Days and Feast days! We are looking forward to those days. Sure will be wonderful when we can keep them with Christ in the world tomorrow. That is a time to really look forward to.

Clarksville, Arkansas

Keep up the great work. It won't be long now, and we'll see this world and its ways coming to an end, and the coming of that new age we all look forward to begin to unfold. It is truly a great honor God has given us to have a part in the greatest work on the face of the earth. (Know any cures for Feast fever?)

Pico Rivera, California

I hope you are feeling well. I enjoy watching the broadcast each week. Especially when you talk about the world tomorrow. I really look forward to that time when we all can live in peace together. You are always in my prayers. My family and I love you very much.

Age 7

High Point, North Carolina

Please accept my offering to your work for God. I hope and pray for the Kingdom of God to be set up on earth. I am looking forward to a world of peace and harmony, and I know only God can bring that to us. Pray for us, and you have our sincere prayers for you and your work.

Odum, Georgia

I am ahead in my Bible lessons. I'm 8 years old. And I live in Texas. I can't wait till the Millennium. It sounds more than wonderful. I'm going to have a pet monkey in the Millennium. I like monkeys. I love animals, but I like monkeys the best. In church my favorite story is about Joseph. I like church. Sometimes I wonder what the place of safety will be like.

Age 8

Aules, Texas

I want to thank you for all the booklets and articles that I have received from you. I have them in a file so I can easily find them for reference when I study. I am still studying as much as possible, as I would like to be a teacher in the millennial reign of Christ if I am worthy and acceptable when the time comes, and I do think it isn't far away now.

I don't write very well any more as I am getting old but would like to live long enough to see the coming of the Lord and the restitution of all things. So you can be looking for my donations as long as I am living.

Franklin, Nebraska

I am only 10 but I still read my brother's "Youth 85" magazines which he receives. I've been in the Church all my life, and I plan to stay in it. I hope your eyes get better soon. I'm also looking forward to the Kingdom where I'll have quite a lot of wildlife, especially budgerigars [parakeets] like this photograph of my budgerigar I have now. Her name is Sydney.

Age 10
Hobart, Australia

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center