

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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REPORT FROM THE TREASURER'S OFFICE

For the first time in over three months the increase in income is "double digit" again! The November increase was 11.7%. Year-to-date is now 10.5%. This is still below budget, but it is an encouraging trend.

Last month I mentioned we did not know the actual amount of increase for the final Holy Day offering because excess festival tithe was included in the offering this year. The amount of increase for that Holy Day offering was almost equal to the amount of excess festival tithe the previous year. At the present time the combined Holy Day offerings and festival contributions are 5.3% more than the combined figure for last year. This is, however, almost 7% less than the 12% anticipated in the budget. This should be a fairly accurate comparison of the change in 1985 for these contributions.

You have probably read in Mr. Armstrong's recent letters about decisions made necessary because of lower than expected income. These decisions resulted in reducing the number of pages in "The Plain Truth" and lowering the circulation of the newsstand issues for awhile. Also, a number of less effective TV stations have been canceled. These changes, plus a "no-increase" budget for nearly all departments, make cash-flow projections positive for 1986. They also indicate a return to January 1985 reserve levels by the end of 1986. We are hoping that the income will increase enough so that sufficient reserves can again be set aside during the months of "plenty" to carry us through the "lean months," much like what Joseph did in Egypt.

--Leroy Neff, Treasurer

FROM CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

EXAMINE OURSELVES; GROWTH; MEAT IN DUE SEASON;
PRAYER UPDATES; INTERNATIONAL NEWS; NOTICE

Examine Ourselves Mr. Herbert Armstrong appreciates not only the deep concern being shown by God's people for him but also their faithful prayers for his full recovery. His condition has remained basically unchanged for the past few weeks.

We know God is faithful and that He hears our effectual, fervent prayers. As we each continue to seek God's intervention for Mr. Arm-

strong, let us remember the need to look for the sins, weaknesses, flaws and shortcomings in ourselves, and to strive to overcome and change. Sometimes we may lack the faith we need to believe God's promises simply because of a hidden sin or wrong attitude that we have not yet squarely faced and come to grips with.

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The process of examining ourselves is not limited to Passover time. It should be an ongoing process that continues all year round, especially during times of need, emergency or difficulty. We are all human and we are all subject to sin. Let us seek God's help in recognizing and actively going to work on those areas of our lives that are not properly reflecting the example and mind of Jesus Christ.

None of us has any power on his own to do the work of God's ministry. We are only effective tools for God's use to the extent that we submit ourselves to Him and allow Him to work through us. Let's each be sure that we are not preventing God from using us effectively because of a stubborn or hardheaded or neglectful attitude on our part.

As God's ministry, let's make an extra special effort at this time to draw close to Him, thereby drawing closer to one another as His unified body, bonded together by His love, which is the fulfilling of His law.

Growth As Mr. Richard Rice describes later in this issue, we were delighted with the record-breaking telephone responses to the last two telecasts. Each weekend brought in well over 25,000 calls! This kind of response is due in part to the effect of the new television stations added this year. God has given us great blessings in growth during these past 12 months. But, again, I stress that we must each recognize the need to do our part individually to draw close to God, to be pleasing Him. This is God's work! He will see it done. But God has chosen to work through human instruments. And as Mr. Armstrong has often pointed out, we can be responsible, by our own lack of spiritual growth, for God not fully blessing us as He otherwise would.

Let's take seriously this calling God has given us! What could ever be more important? If we are not progressing spiritually, if we are only standing still, only trying to just "hang in there," then we are going backward.

The apostle Paul admonishes us in Galatians 6:9, "And let us not be weary in well-doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." We cannot spiritually afford to let down in prayer, in Bible study or in regular fasting. Don't permit yourself to "take it easy." As Paul told Timothy, "Stir up the gift of God [the Holy Spirit] which is in you" (II Timothy 1:6). God has given us His great mercy and grace and His power to do His will, if we will only use it. Let us carry on faithfully and faint not!

Meat in Due Season It is always a good idea about this time of year to give a sermon regarding Christmas, its origins and observance, and why God's people do not keep it. Pastors might also assign a sermonette or two to cover the balanced Christian approach to dealing with relatives, friends, school activities, etc. on the subject of Christmas. Mr. Herbert Armstrong's "Personal" entitled "Have You Tried to Convert Others" in the December, 1985, "Good News" gives excellent instruction on how to follow Jesus' example in working with others. Other material specifically pertinent to Christmas can also be found in the same issue, as well as in issues of "The Plain Truth" and "The Good News" of previous years.

Try to keep attuned to what topics might be of value at specific times in the year, so your topics are always timely and interest-evoking.

This is also the time to plan sermons on the topics of first, second and third tithes. The Feast will be here in another 11 months. The time to be concerned about faithfully saving second tithe is, of course, now, not 10 months from now.

Prayer Updates We were saddened this past November 25 to learn of the death of Mr. Michael Hechel. Mr. Hechel had been ill for several months and had entered the hospital about a week earlier, after his condition worsened.

Mr. Hechel was ordained in 1967 as a local elder and was raised to preaching elder in 1968. He most recently served as pastor of the Charleston, South Carolina, and Savannah, Georgia, congregations. Mr. Robert Persky, who has been pastoring those churches since Mr. Hechel's illness, conducted the funeral service on Wednesday, November 27.

Thank you for your prayers on Mr. Hechel's behalf during his illness and for your continued prayers for Mrs. Kay Hechel.

Molly Moskel, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Moskel, is, as most of you know, suffering from leukemia. She has been making good progress. The Moskels deeply appreciate your concern and prayers and we are encouraged by the steady improvement.

Mrs. Robin Hulme has also been making slow but sure progress, and though she still has a long way to go, she is feeling steadily stronger.

Also, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Schreiber greatly appreciate the many prayers on Mrs. Schreiber's behalf. Although the cancer in Mrs. Schreiber's foot seems to be worsening, she is experiencing practically no symptoms from the cancer in other parts of her body. Please continue to pray for the Moskels, Hulmes and the Schreibers in their hour of need.

International News

From Colin Adair October was spent catching up with the backlog of mail left from the Feast period. Just before the Feast a direct mail campaign took place which created much mail for the latter half of September and all of October. This, coupled with other mail, gave us a 31.4% increase in incoming mail and calls compared with the same time last year. Our year-to-date mail now stands at 17.8% over last year.

Income for October was 51.3% up on last year. While this may seem a very large increase, it is, of course, due to the fact that the Feast of Tabernacles was held later last year, which meant we had many more income days this October than last. Year-to-date income stands at 11%.

Reports from the coordinators across Canada indicate that the Feast of Tabernacles went extremely well at all sites. Attendance was over 14,000--which was an increase of 6.4% on 1984. Offerings on the first day were up 16.1%, and on the Last Great Day 34.4%.

The brethren have commented very favorably on Mr. Armstrong's book "Mystery of the Ages" and wish me to pass on their thanks to him for

producing such a fine work. From Fort McMurray, AB, the most northerly church in Canada, to Windsor, Ontario, the most southerly, all extend their thanks for Mr. Armstrong's efforts.

The fast day for the health of Mr. Armstrong and others with serious illnesses in the Church was taken soberly by the brethren here. Almost continually, members and ministers alike are inquiring how he is. The concern is obvious and the brethren's prayers continue.

Canada's 11% unemployment rate continues to be a problem for some members. However, many local churches have begun a campaign to help members obtain employment by holding job seminars in which pastors instruct members how to go about getting a job. The campaign has been very successful in some church areas, resulting in members obtaining substantial employment after not having worked for years.

From Dibar Apartian There are 40 French-speaking countries and/or dependencies located in Western Europe, North America, the Caribbean, South America, North Africa, Western and Central Africa, the Indian Ocean and the South Pacific. A population of 250,000,000 live in these countries. They have divergent cultures--all they have in common is the French language! The surface areas where these people live is 16,212,276 square kilometers.

The worldwide circulation of "La Pure Verite" is up 32.6% over last year. We currently have 177,499 subscribers, of whom 67,490 have been added to our files so far this year. Penetration of "La Pure Verite" among the 40 French-speaking countries is currently 1 in every 1,017 persons.

The circulation of "La Bonne Nouvelle du Monde a Venir" (the French "Good News") has also experienced good growth. The current circulation is 30,273--which is an increase of 136.9% over last year.

Currently 21 ordained ministers and two trainees serve in 27 French-speaking churches. The average weekly Sabbath service attendance stands at 2,642 persons, an increase of 16.7% above last year.

Attendance at the five French Feast of Tabernacles sites was 2,947--an increase of 15.5% over last year. Holy Day offerings for 1985 were 36.3% above last year, with an overall increase given per person of 21.7%.

Radio is effective in areas and hours where people are still tuning in. RTL-Radio covers the northern quarter of France, reaching the Parisian region. Radio SUD broadcasts from Andorra into most of Southwestern France.

We've just added four new radio stations in the Abitibi-Val d'Or region of Quebec. This opens up a rather isolated region 1,500 kilometers northwest of Montreal. Two new radio opportunities in Martinique have opened up on private FM stations.

"The World Tomorrow" subtitled in French is having a synergistic effect in whatever French areas it has been airing. TMC-TV, broadcasting from

Monte Carlo, reaches a larger area of southeastern France this year, including Marseille and Aix-en-Provence. Six new stations are carrying the French-subtitled broadcasts in Canada. Three are in Quebec and three in northern Ontario, where there is a significant French-speaking population.

Future possibilities of increased television in France are looking very bright. Within the next one to two years it appears that a private cable TV industry will open up in France.

As an inexpensive substitute to running a newsstand program, we are just kicking off a new program called Chevalet-présentoir program (easel cardholder). Instead of distributing a magazine with its inherent production and transportation costs, we simply negotiate space in local business establishments, such as shopping centers, and distribute brochures advertising "La Pure Vérité." As the cost of the two-color brochures is minimal and the format does not change from month to month, we can take advantage of large printing runs and can ship them in bulk by sea freight.

In Martinique we have now placed six Chevalets-présentoirs in supermarkets, distributing in three weeks 3,160 brochures. We've had over 250 responses so far, which is a 4% response rate. Last week we received 215 responses from newly placed easel cardholders in Guadeloupe.

French Canada continued this year to employ direct mail to good advantage, adding 13,568 new people--49.8% of the white mail from French Canada. And worldwide, "Sélection" (French edition of Reader's Digest) accounted for 22% of our white mail of 15,030 responses through November 7, counting as well new responses received from previous years' ads.

The Pasadena office, where everything is centralized and computerized, handles nearly all of the editorial work, in addition to worldwide administration. At the present this office has a total of 16 employees: two ministers, five full-time employees and nine students.

NOTICE TO ALL MINISTERS

(Not to be announced)

Due to inquiries received regarding Mr. Keith Thomas, we feel it is necessary to advise the ministry that Mr. Thomas has been removed from the ministry. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas remain members of the Church.

--Joseph Tkach, Church Administration

FROM EDITORIAL SERVICES

REGIONAL REPORTS; APRIL "PLAIN TRUTH"; "YOUTH 86"

Regional Reports The progress of God's work worldwide in 1985, much of which was reported at the Regional Directors Conference here November 18 through 21, will be comprehensively covered in the January 27 issue of "The Worldwide News." Year-end reports from the Church's 12 regional offices and some Pasadena departments will be included in this special issue, along with noteworthy achievements from 1985, plans for 1986, and special problems and other needs about which the regional directors would like brethren to pray.

April "Plain Truth" Just before the Regional Directors Conference we had our April "Plain Truth" planning session. Along with "Mystery of Israel," chapter 5, part 2, of Mr. Armstrong's book, and his "Personal," we have scheduled Mr. Armstrong's "What Is the Purpose of the Resurrection?"

An article discussed as the late-breaking March lead is "Britain--Problems From Within and Without." Stan Bass, regional director of the Caribbean area, attended the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in the Bahamas shortly after the Feast. Editor Herman L. Hoeh and world news editor Gene Hogberg felt the information submitted by Mr. Bass would be very timely. Mr. Bass also took photographs of various dignitaries attending the conference.

"Youth 86" As I mentioned in the Regional Directors Conference, it's difficult to believe, but we are gearing up for the sixth year of "Youth" magazine. That means those young people in the Church who were just old enough to receive the magazine--13 years old when the first issue came out--will be 18 when "Youth 86" comes out in January. In these last five years, added to those young people in the Church are more than 200,000 other subscribers who are not associated with the Church, including 60,000 libraries.

"Youth 85" now goes into 138 countries and territories. Although the United States and Canada make up 85 percent of the 230,000 readers, the magazine is also going into countries from Algeria to Zimbabwe, from China to Yugoslavia, from Iran (363 readers!) to Poland.

As I told the regional directors, we always appreciate any suggestions you may have for the "Youth" magazine, as well as news clippings about heroic young people and other items from your area that would be interesting to teens. Articles in the January "Youth 86" issue cover everything from sports safety to coping with family conflict. Other subjects include evolution, communication, facing your fears and goal setting. On the cover is an action-packed snow-skiing photograph.

Even though the "Youth" magazine is primarily designed for teens, I hope you are reading it and all the other publications of God's work. God's Church is a growing, developing body. Mr. Armstrong constantly updates and revises his articles. Those who don't regularly read the publications may find serious gaps developing in their knowledge of what the Church teaches.

--Dexter Faulkner, Editorial Services

UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSING**TWO NEW WATS RECORDS; RECORD NUMBER OF NAMES; EXCELLENT BOOK RESPONSE**

Two New WATS Records A record-breaking response to the telecast "Revelation: Catastrophic Event" inundated the Pasadena and Big Sandy WATS offices over the weekend of November 23-24. A total of 25,552 calls were answered--more than 5,000 (25 percent) over the previous record. The number of calls would have been approximately 1,200 higher had Chicago station WGN not preempted the program because of a TV special.

Then the following weekend (November 30-December 1) the program "The Plain Truth About Christmas" brought in 26,020 calls, setting a new record. This is the 10th time this year that each previous record has been broken. The telecast about Christmas has always pulled very well. However, this response was nearly double last year's airing (December 2) which produced 13,101 calls. As we enter the winter season, we are seeing the full effect of the new stations added this year.

Record Number of Names This year a record number of new people have been added to our computer file. This file contains not only the "Plain Truth" subscription list, but also those of "The Good News," "Youth" magazine, the Correspondence Course and others who request only booklets.

The number added through October was 1,763,834--which surpassed the total for all of last year. Of these new people, 1,455,000 subscribed to "The Plain Truth" and 227,000 were sent a sample copy at the request of a friend. The remaining 81,000 did not subscribe to "The Plain Truth" but did request other literature.

The "World Tomorrow" program was the No. 1 source of these new names--it brought in 495,000 (28 percent of the total). The newsstand program was No. 2 with 288,000 (16 percent). Other major sources include "Plain Truth" blow-in cards, literature envelopes, the waiting-room program, the April READER'S DIGEST ad and a direct-mail letter that offered "The Plain Truth."

Based on the current rate of adding new people, we will probably reach the two million mark before the year is over.

Excellent Book Response The response to Mr. Armstrong's offer of "Mystery of the Ages" to "Good News" readers has set a new record. We have now received 200,000 letters--a 41.7 percent return. The former record was set in 1964 when 41.4 percent of the subscribers requested the book "God Speaks Out on the New Morality." The total response will continue to climb and may reach 50 percent. Many have read the first installments in "The Plain Truth" and are anxiously awaiting the complete volume. Some state they expect Mr. Armstrong's book to answer questions that have puzzled them all their lives.

It seems incredible that with all of our belt-tightening, 1985 will prove to be a record-breaking year in almost every category.

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center