

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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Dear Ministers of Jesus Christ,

God continues to richly bless the response to the "World Tomorrow" program! This past weekend produced the second highest response ever with 44,207 calls on the WATS lines! These responses are indeed encouraging, and serve to further illustrate that there is a great Work yet ahead of us.

I hope each of you really understands the importance of the Work God is doing through you! The whole world has been deceived. Only a few have been called through history to know the truth about who God is and what He is doing. The truth about God's purpose and plan, His way of life, His law, His mercy, the great significance of the blood of Jesus Christ, the glorious future of mankind--all these are precious treasures beyond description that have been entrusted to you by God Himself through His Church, for you to faithfully pass on to others God chooses to call. Can you grasp how important that is to God? I now find myself responsible to God for you. Don't let anything come between you and God. The apostle Paul speaks of sin which does "so easily beset us." Be on guard! Be wary of Satan's devices. Be strong in the faith of Jesus Christ.

The time has come to stir up the gift of God that is in you through the laying on of hands. God has placed a great deal of responsibility on your shoulders as a part of His ministry. Take that seriously! And remember that God will give you the help you need through His Spirit. Great growth is beginning, and much work awaits us. Let us draw ever closer to God so that we may, with His help and blessing, be prepared to meet the challenge!

How time goes by! Meetings for U.S. Festival Coordinators were held this week on Wednesday and Thursday, February 12 and 13. Plans were laid for the 1986 Feast of Tabernacles, to be held in more than 90 sites worldwide with a projected attendance of 136,000. These Festival Coordinators, representing 22 United States Feast sites, have their work cut out for them.

I opened the meetings Wednesday morning, reviewing a little of the history of the Feast since Mr. Herbert Armstrong first held meetings on the fall Holy Days in Eugene, Oregon, in 1933. Total attendance that year was 21. Growth continued slowly but steadily

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until Belknap Springs, Oregon, became the sole site in 1945 and later Big Sandy, Texas, in 1953. In the United States, Squaw Valley, California, was added in 1961, Jekyll Island, Georgia, in 1963, Mt. Pocono, Pennsylvania, in 1967 and Lake of the Ozarks,

Missouri, in 1969. Other sites have been added as needed to accommodate the growth God has given over the years.

I then pointed out to the group, which also included the various business managers for the sites and several of our international Regional Directors, that God has laid a solid foundation through Mr. Herbert Armstrong. Our responsibility now is to begin building the superstructure. And let's realize, ministers, the superstructure is what becomes most visible. When the superstructure begins to go up on its foundation, people then begin to take notice that a building is being built. When I say that there is much work ahead, or that God has much for us yet to do, I hope you understand how true that is! God's Spirit is dynamic. God has not called us to stand still! God's Church must move forward with power!

Back to the Festival meeting. I then covered the topic of unity as the keynote for the Feast again this year. I think I've explained before that this theme, based on Psalm 133:1, must always be the theme of every conference, meeting or planning session of any kind in God's Church. God and His Son are one. And we are to become one with one another and with Them. The only way that is done is when we all are walking in the steps of Jesus Christ, our example.

The Work of God will not be done by independent operators, each going his own way, doing his own thing that he deems important based upon his own ideas. Those who are not "fitly framed together" with the body of Christ will not last long in His service. As God's servant, responsible to Him for the human leadership of His Church and Work, I will see to it that unity prevails, as much as I humanly am able with God leading me through His Holy Spirit. I cannot afford to tolerate in God's Church, any more than Mr. Armstrong could, that which compromises God's law, or causes confusion, disunity or disharmony. "God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints" (I Corinthians 14:33).

Mr. Ellis La Ravia then discussed the physical arrangements of the sites, attendance, housing, working with the convention bureaus and so on.

Wednesday afternoon, Mr. Leroy Neff presented financial and budgeting matters, as well as material regarding Holy Day offerings, special music and comments from his Refresher class on decorum during services. Afterward, Mr. Larry Omasta discussed technical aspects of Festival audiovisual presentations.

Thursday morning, the meetings continued with Messrs. Mark McCulley, Jack Patterson, Dwight Viehe and Ellis La Ravia commenting on scheduling, organization and housing. With much planning, effort and prayer we are all looking forward to again keeping the "best Feast ever"!

We are, as I said, encouraged and inspired by the strong responses to the telecast. We need to bear in mind, however, that a high response is not the primary measure of how successful or valuable a particular program is. A program on the subject of prophecy will nearly always bring a much greater response than a program on, let's say, the Sabbath or on the true Church. But we must address all

pertinent topics anyway, fully aware that some responses will naturally be lower than others. If we are not careful we can erroneously begin to expect that if a record is not broken every week, then something is wrong. I have asked Mr. Richard Rice to explain some of the factors that affect response in next week's issue of the "Pastor General's Report." But these high responses do show us that our viewing audience has not diminished, and, in fact, seems to be growing. In some cases, individuals who never really took Mr. Herbert Armstrong's telecasts seriously have told us that they are now worried about what they may have missed and are viewing "The World Tomorrow" with renewed interest.

As plans stand, Mr. David Hulme will present the first four programs (through February 23) and Dr. David Albert will appear on March 2nd and March 9th. Mr. Hulme will return for the March 16th program, and Mr. Richard Ames will air March 23rd and 30th.

Mr. Hulme has expressed his deep appreciation for all your support and prayers because, as his Refresher class points out, this Work is not done by might (of men) nor by power (of men), but by the Spirit of God. Please remember Dr. Albert and Mr. Ames as their taping begins the same week you receive this issue of the "Pastor General's Report."

Also--I can't stress this enough--pray for the television crew. God has greatly blessed their labor and dedication these past few weeks. Literally hundreds of hours go into each program after the taping of the speaker. The TV crew is shorthanded, and a lot of overtime is going into these programs. We need additional qualified personnel for the staff and the budget to hire them. Let's ask God to provide both. This is His Work. He will provide our needs as long as we do our part.

Keep up the good work. Your labor of love in your various responsibilities and your faithful prayers are deeply appreciated. And to you wives I must mention how much I know God appreciates the tremendous part each of you plays in the success of your husband's ministry. My earnest and heartfelt prayers are with you all.

With deep love and appreciation,



FROM CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

HYMNAL RECORD FORMS; ANNOUNCEMENT; RECENT ORDINATIONS

Hymnal Record Forms Church pastors will find included with this "Pastor General's Report" two sheets having the title "1986 Hymnal Record." The first sheet covers the first six months of the year, the second the second six months. We have used similar sheets in the

Auditorium PM church to record the hymns sung each Sabbath. By keeping such a running record, we avoid overworking some songs and never singing others.

This was so effective here at Headquarters that we are introducing its use in all churches where the English version of the Hymnal is used. The pastor should appoint someone, such as a songleader or deacon, to maintain the record. We want each congregation to have a balanced "diet" of hymns throughout the year. In addition, we would like each congregation to be reasonably competent in singing most of the hymns in the Hymnal.

TO BE ANNOUNCED IN ALL U.S. CHURCHES

YOU will sponsor two educational tours to Europe this summer for qualifying YOU members. The first tour will be a once-in-a-lifetime 10-day tour of the Soviet Union for 36 students, leaving June 23.

The second tour, called "Accent on Britain," will be a 15-day tour of Britain, France and the Netherlands for 42 students, leaving July 3. The approximate cost for each tour will be \$1500. The tours will be chaperoned by Imperial Schools and Ambassador College faculty members. A minister will accompany both tours.

Applicants must complete a written application obtained from their pastor and return it to him so he can forward it to the YOU office.

Note: A select number will be able to attend S.E.P. Scotland before they return home.

If any YOU members are interested, pastors should call the YOU office in Pasadena for applications.

Recent Ordinations Mr. Robert Jones, pastor of the Norfolk and Richmond, Virginia, churches and coordinator of the Norfolk Feast site, was raised to Pastor rank the evening of February 11. Mr. Joseph Tkach led the ceremony and was joined by several evangelists.

Ordained as Local Elders in Big Sandy on February 1 were Dr. Kermit Nelson, now serving as coordinator of YOU in Church Administration in Pasadena, and Mr. Gilbert Norman, faculty member in Big Sandy.

--Joseph W. Tkach, Pastor General

ON THE WORLD SCENE

SHUTTLE DISASTER; "THIRD PARTY" NUCLEAR THREAT; "MARSHALL PLAN II"; GROWTH OF "ECU"; PAPAL PEACE POLICY DEVELOPS; IMMORAL ADVICE

Challenger Explosion Aftermath The shocking in-flight destruction of the Challenger space shuttle and its seven-person crew on January 24

shook the collective consciousness of the American people in a dramatic and profound manner. It closely compared, experts noted, to the impact of a presidential assassination. Giving evidence of the depths of the loss felt, the NEW YORK TIMES on the following day devoted its entire front page and nine succeeding pages, advertisement free, to all aspects of the disaster and the U.S. space program in general.

Perhaps more than anything else, the calamity shook America's pride in its technological achievements, symbolized above all else in the national space effort. The shuttle program in particular had heretofore been so successful that the public had come to accept the periodic launches as routine--and relatively risk-free. The experts, however, always knew there was a potential for disaster, considering the vast quantity of fuel necessary to launch the DC-9-sized orbiter into space.

"Third Party" Nuclear Threat Carrying the analysis of the Challenger disaster further, Norman Cousins, former editor of THE SATURDAY REVIEW, showed how dangerous the world situation is, considering the reliance of the two superpowers on computerized high technology in their multi-megaton nuclear arsenals. But it is his comments about "third-party complicity" which are especially interesting in view of the likelihood of a nuclear-armed united Europe in the future. Mr. Cousins' article appeared in the Feb. 9, 1986, LOS ANGELES TIMES:

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The tragedy should remind the world that, despite the most systematic precautions, accidents are possible when dealing with high technology.... The space shuttle accident, therefore, forces us to fix attention on the intricate technology basic to the war capability of the United States and the Soviet Union. Begin with the computerized system for detecting attacking missiles. During World War II, civilian spotters stood on hilltops of American coastal cities to report the sight or sound of airplanes by telephone to a control station. These reports would be checked against information at hand about posted flights. Unidentified aircraft would be monitored on a grid from station to station. At the beginning of the war, military aircraft flew by propellers at speeds under 400 miles per hour; many of them under 200 m.p.h. There was ample time for the tracking station to check and cross-check all movements in the sky, with time to alert our own combat aircraft as well as to activate anti-aircraft equipment.

By the end of the war, however, speeds had increased to the point where civilian spotters were as useless as Indian smoke signals against an attacker with cannons. Radar replaced human surveillance.... Then came ballistic missiles, with speeds measured not in terms of hundreds of miles per hour but in thousands. Even enemies on opposite sides of the world were only two or three hours apart.

As the speed of missiles increased, so did reliance on technology. By the mid-1970s, computers were given the job of analyzing data appearing on radar screens from tracking stations around the world. The presence of unauthorized or

strange objects would be picked up by radar and fed into computers capable of determining whether such objects were possible attacking missiles or planes.... The rate of malfunction was remarkably low.

Even so, from 1981 to 1985, more than 100 possible missile attacks on the United States were flashed on our military computer screens. Fortunately, we had enough time to check out these alerts and determine that they were the result of computer error. It might take as many as 30 minutes to discover that a signal was false. But at least we had that margin of time to prevent buttons from being pressed--to prevent the loosing of a nuclear attack on the enemy that would result, in all probability, in a counternuclear attack on the United States.

Since there is no reason to believe that Soviet computer technology is superior to our own, it becomes necessary to recognize that erroneous blips have turned up on Soviet computer screens. But America's very success in placing missile launching platforms close to Soviet borders has reduced the time available for Soviet experts to check for possible computer errors. For example, American Pershing 2 missiles are less than 10 minutes away from major Soviet targets.... The fact of Soviet submarines with missile launchers not far off the coasts of the United States has a similar effect on American defense strategy....

Perhaps the most basic flaw of all in the computer alert system is that it doesn't allow for third-party complicity. The computer can, of course, tell something from the shape and a great deal from the early location of a radar blip, but not all blips are picked up at site of origin. After only a few minutes, the precise source can be something of a guessing game. A missile launched by a submarine, for example, provides no automatic or certain information about the identity of the sender. A third party that thinks it is in a position to profit from a war between two other nations could conceivably launch its missile at one or the other, thus setting off a nuclear chain reaction....

What is most likely...is that a nuclear war could erupt without anyone having a clear idea of what went wrong. Human scientific genius has created the ultimate irrational situation in which the conditions of life could be shattered beyond recognition or repair, with the survivors, such as they are, left to guess how it all started.

"Marshall Plan II" In light of the reference to the potential third-force threat, it is interesting to note that conservative circles in the United States are increasingly pushing the idea of having Western Europe as well as Japan do far more for their own defense, including nuclear weaponry. An example of such reasoning appeared in the Winter 1985-86 issue of FOREIGN POLICY, in an article entitled "The Real Conservative Agenda." It was written by an American analyst of the NATO alliance, Christopher Layne. Here are key excerpts of his article, in which Layne calls for "Marshall Plan II--the phased withdrawal of U.S. forces from Europe":

One leading cause of America's relative decline in power is the increase in West European and Japanese economic power since the end of World War II. Yet the distribution of military responsibilities in Western Europe and Japan still reflects the conditions of 40 years ago. Japan, the world's second-ranking economic power, spends a mere 1 percent of its GNP on defense and depends completely on the United States for its security. Taken as a unit, the economies of NATO's European members compare favorably to America's, but these countries devote considerably less of their individual GNPs to defense. More to the point, a recent Pentagon study indicates that the U.S. commitment to NATO accounts for some 58 per cent of America's own defense budget.....

The United States should complete its historic postwar mission and devolve to Western Europe and Japan full responsibility for their own defense. What Washington needs--and what real conservatives should offer--is a sequel to the Marshall Plan. This farsighted program helped Europe recover its economic independence. "Marshall Plan II" would build on the economic strength of Western Europe and Japan and allow them to become politically and militarily independent. To avoid leaving these countries out in the cold, the United States should set a firm timetable for a phased, long-term American withdrawal--perhaps over 10 years--coupled with an invitation to Western Europe and Japan to formulate their own postalliance defense plans. Washington would give them the assistance they needed to implement these plans. But when the transition period ended, U.S. defense commitments would terminate.

Western Europe and Japan unquestionably have the capability to defend themselves. Marshall Plan II would give them the incentive--which they will lack as long as they remain under the American umbrella--to transform their resources into real military power....

A "Marshall Plan II" is not yet official U.S. policy--but could become so if budgetary restraints force cutbacks of key military programs.

The Common Market's "Shadow Currency" And now, here is a real "sleeper" issue. A European "third force" would need, logically, greater political and economic cohesion, specifically in the realm of fiscal and monetary affairs. Just such cohesion is slowly taking form, as highlighted in an article which appeared in the January-March 1986 issue of BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC REVIEW, a publication of the University of South Carolina. It is entitled "Currency Without a Country" and is subheaded: "You may not have heard of it, but the European Currency Unit (ECU) is fast becoming one of the world's most important currencies. Here's why."

With increasing frequency, United States businessmen and bankers are encountering, and taking advantage of, one of the hottest financial innovations of the 1980s: the European Currency Unit, or ECU. In particular, 1985 has seen an explosive growth in all aspects of financial and commercial usage of the ECU. United States corporations as diverse as R. J. Reynolds, GTE, Morgan Guaranty, Walt Disney, and Chrysler

have issued fixed interest rate bonds with principal and interest payments made in ECUs.

More and more frequently, European firms are billing their customers in ECUs and expressing a willingness to pay for imports in ECUs. European banks now issue ECU traveler's checks, which can be readily exchanged throughout Europe for local currency. Both the New York Cotton Exchange and Chicago's International Monetary Market (IMM) have plans for creation of ECU futures markets soon, and the Philadelphia Stock Exchange, the leader in currency options, is exploring the possibility of developing an option in the ECU.

In the words of one observant banker, "The ECU is already the third currency after the dollar and the yen, and will probably become the foundation of the world's third currency zone." Such a prediction should motivate Americans to develop an understanding of the ECU and its future direction.

The ECU is a currency without a country. Unlike the dollar, the mark, the yen, or other prominent national currencies, no central bank issues them. ECU bank notes cannot be found. Yet, commercial banks will take ECU deposits and make loans in the ECU, just as they might do in their own currency.... The ECU, sometimes referred to as a currency "basket," is composed of specified amounts of the 10 currencies of the European Economic Community.... What is an ECU worth? The value of this currency basket is determined by the value of its constituent currencies. The key exchange rate for quoting ECUs is the exchange rate between the dollar and the 10 component currencies....

The ECU is the official monetary unit of the European Economic Community.... Over the years...European currencies changed in relative value, with the French and Belgian francs and Italian lira going down in value, and the Deutsche mark and guilder going up in value.... It is expected that the Spanish peseta and the Portuguese escudo will be included in the ECU no later than the 1989 review period....

Another mechanism enhances the stability of the ECU. The ECU serves as the linchpin of the European Monetary System, the mechanism designed to promote relatively stable exchange rates between European currencies.... Ironically, West Germany...has become the major stumbling block to full commercial acceptability of the ECU. Use of the ECU by residents is prohibited...under Germany's 1948 currency law.... Clearly, liberalization of German law regarding payments in the ECU is necessary to allow full and free European usage of the ECU in commercial operations, since Germany constitutes Europe's largest market....

- X Ultimately, the ECU may become a basis for a complete currency union among countries of the European Community. While such a major step is clearly a distant one, dependent on a convergence of European economic policies and a major
- X sacrifice of national prerogatives, the rapid growth of the ECU as a vehicle for private commercial and financial

transactions will certainly reduce the barriers to eventual currency union....

Both Charlemagne and Napoleon sought to introduce a common currency (also known as the ECU) to Western Europe through conquest. [A French gold or silver coin known as "Ecu" was in use from 1266 to 1803.] Where military force has failed, economic forces appear to be succeeding. The ECU of the 1980s is history's closest approach to a common currency for Europe, and the key to its success is not governmental fiat but market acceptance.

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Papal Update A European third force, united militarily and economically, would still need to "rediscover its roots" in the cultural and spiritual sense. Such is the position of Pope John Paul II in his latest appeal to Europe's Roman Catholic bishops, to "re-evangelize" the continent, as well as to push ahead "with complete commitment in the cause of ecumenism," or church unity. (See "On the World Scene," 31 January 1986.)

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 The Pope appears to be fighting a self-imposed deadline of the year 2000 to get his church revitalized, including the goal of church reunion. Speaking in Turkey in late 1979, in a meeting with Greek Orthodox Patriarch Demetrios I, John Paul said: "During the second millennium, our churches were rigid in their separation. Now the third millennium of Christianity is at the gates. May the dawn of this millennium rise on a church which has full unity again."

Two weeks after his letter to Europe's bishops was released by the Vatican (on January 16, although it was dated January 2), the Pope was off on his 29th international trip. On this trip he revealed that his thinking goes beyond the confines of Europe. He envisions for himself a key role in a worldwide religious cooperative venture in the cause of world peace. Here is a summary of the most noteworthy event on his 10-day trip to India, as reported in the February 3, 1986 LOS ANGELES TIMES:

Pope John Paul II on Sunday met Tibet's living Buddhist deity, the Dalai Lama, and called on "all the religions of the world to collaborate in the cause of humanity."... Later in the day, the Pope told a quietly respectful audience of about 10,000 mostly middle-class Indians of various faiths at Indira Gandhi Stadium here [in New Delhi] that "there is a need for all religions to collaborate in the cause of humanity and to do this from the viewpoint of the spiritual nature of man. Today, as Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsees and Christians, we gather in fraternal love to assert this by our very presence," he said.

Two weeks ago, in a little-reported remark during a ceremony at a church in Rome, the Pope proposed a world gathering of leading figures from all of the religions of the world in Assisi, Italy, the home of St. Francis, to share a retreat together during which they would meditate and pray for world peace. Vatican spokesman Juaquin Navarro-Valls said the pontiff is still waiting for replies to his call to the other religious leaders....

The pontiff's call for collaboration among the world's religions in the cause of freeing people from poverty, suffering and the threat of war, was considered by members of John Paul's entourage to be a serious reiteration of his earlier call for a joint peace vigil in Assisi. One of the aims of the collaboration, he told the New Delhi audience, would be to "eliminate hunger, poverty, ignorance, persecution, discrimination and every form of enslavement of the human spirit." In an unusually forthright call for the right of every man to make his own religious choice, John Paul said, "To work for the attainment and preservation of all human rights, including the basic right to worship God according to the dictates of an upright conscience and to profess that faith externally, must become ever more a subject of inter-religious collaboration at all levels."

Thus, John Paul's game plan appears two-pronged: revitalize Europe and then use it as a platform from which to have greater influence on the world scene. This analysis implies no inherent evil intent on his part. The present Pope sees the world confronted with severe crises which, of course, threaten the very life of his church. Perhaps a successor will direct John Paul's efforts into less noble channels.

Immoral Advice In this godless age, when men were prophesied to be "lovers of themselves" and "lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God," the leaven of sin abounds. One must be careful, for example, of reading material, which though published generally for one specific purpose, can contain some perverse advice. For example, publications dealing with fashion and fitness are popular with young men today. One such less-than-a-year-old publication which recently came to my attention is MGF--MEN'S GUIDE TO FASHION. Much of the material contained in the December 1985 issue is relatively innocuous--fashion features and tips, health and fitness, body-building, grooming, financial advice. But one article, entitled "In Praise of Solitary Sex," was a bombshell. Here are just a few excerpts, especially the quotes from "experts" that the author used to prove his point.

Diane Brashear, Ph.D., a marriage and sexual counselor from Indianapolis, Indiana.... says..."Self-pleasuring and its accompanying fantasies can be a rich experience in an otherwise tedious existence." Washington, DC. psychiatrist Walter R. Stokes, M.D., puts it this way: "I have arrived at the view, after a lifetime of clinical experience with sex problems, that the time has come not only to throw out all traces of our ancient negative ideas about masturbation, but boldly and unequivocally to defend it and give it the important affirmative position it should have.... I feel we owe it to young people to give our frank and warm endorsement of auto-erotic pleasure as a completely desirable and acceptable end in itself...."

The author obviously agreed with this "expert advice" because nowhere else in the article did he contradict it. Instead he delved into various techniques to help his audience enjoy, as he said, "the full spectrum of auto-erotic riches."

--Gene Hogberg, News Bureau