

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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Dear Ministers,

We had another fine telecast response last weekend to Dr. David Albert's second program about the purpose of human life. 17,762 weekend calls made this the third highest response for a non-prophetic program! And that was in spite of preemptions on 28 stations, including superstation WGN. Had all stations aired the program, we would have received more than 20,000 calls! Telecast response this year is running more than double last year's, at 133% increase to date.

Let's remember to thank God for His blessings, as well as asking for them. Sometimes we can focus so much on asking God's blessing, inspiration, direction, intervention and encouragement--whether for His Work or in our personal lives or the lives of others--that we forget to thank Him. We don't want to be like the nine lepers who went their way rejoicing about their healing, never thinking to go back and thank Jesus for doing it! Rather, we need to be like the one who did appreciate the source of his blessing and returned to express that appreciation.

Mr. Herbert Armstrong often mentioned that 80% of his prayer time was spent in thanking God. If the bulk of your prayers are not focused around thanksgiving, try it! You'll like it! And much more importantly, God will like it! Notice the apostle Paul's instruction in Philippians 4:6: "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God." Also II Thessalonians 5:17-18: "Pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

Encourage the brethren to remember these instructions in prayer. This again is a part of showing God where our hearts are, and what our minds are on.

I met this past Sunday, March 8, with eight members of the faculty of education from Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand. (One faculty member had not yet arrived, due to a death in the family). The nine professors, five women and four men, will be visiting us for six weeks, studying American instructional methods at our own Imperial School in Pasadena, as well as at certain other selected schools in this area. During this reception on Sunday, I discussed with them the differences between education in Thailand and education in America. American methods are actually superior in many ways to traditional Thai methods. The Thai method is basically straight, formal lecture.

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The American method employs more student-teacher interaction. But why, then, if American teaching methods are superior, does the average American child achieve so poorly in school? In fact, Thai, Vietnamese and other Asian children attending U.S. schools are, on the average, high achievers.

Why?

The answer lies in the home. Many American homes have lost the respect for education that inspires children to succeed in school. Television has respect in American homes. Rock music has respect. But education does not. As parents lose sight of the need, they also lose the ability to instill in their children a sound, healthy attitude toward education. Consequently, average American children tend to have poor listening skills, short attention spans (as Mr. John Halford put it, about 12 minutes--the length of time between commercials), and little motivation to learn. Asian children, on the other hand, often have been taught how to concentrate, how to listen and how to work hard at home.

Parents today too often want to blame the schools for their child's poor education, rather than placing the greater blame where it probably lies--on themselves, on their own example that they have set for their children and on their own lack of consistent, loving authority in the home to back up wise, well-considered rules designed for the present and future good of their children.

God's people need to understand the importance of the family. It has often been said, "As the family goes, so goes the nation." I could add, "As the family goes, so goes the Church of God." The Church has an obligation to teach parents the importance of their responsibilities to their children before God. I expect that all you ministers are carefully reading, teaching and applying the materials on these subjects that have been and will continue to appear in the Church's publications. Remember, your example speaks louder than your words.

Last week, on Thursday, March 6, Messrs. Dibar Apartian, Dexter Faulkner, Michael Feazell, Herman Hoeh, Gene Hogberg, Douglas Horchak, Ellis La Ravia, Leroy Neff, Dan Taylor and I attended a luncheon meeting of the Los Angeles World Affairs Council at which former President Richard M. Nixon was the guest speaker. I met briefly with Mr. Nixon at a reception before the meeting. I told him I enjoyed his definitions of where peace occurs--in death, and sitting at the typewriter.

He seemed to be a down-to-earth man, easy to converse with. I invited him to speak at Ambassador College, a proposal he accepted verbally, but asked that we send him a letter so he wouldn't forget.

Mr. Nixon's speech displayed a realistic, insightful view of Soviet-American relations.

His conclusion was far more meaningful than he could possibly realize. He said: "Let this generation of Americans be remembered not for presiding over the twilight of an old civilization, but for helping to usher in the dawn of a new era in which the bloody 20th century was followed by a peaceful 21st century--an era in which people everywhere had

a chance to enjoy the blessings of freedom, justice and progress which have made America such a good and great country."

Truly, America's "goodness and greatness" will be totally eclipsed in the not-too-distant future by just such an era--an era that God's elect, spiritual Israel, will help to usher in--under the world-ruling government of God with Jesus Christ as supreme King!

In Christian love,

Joseph W. Tkach

FROM CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

Y.O.U. PHOTO CONTEST; SERMON TAPE; PRAYER REQUEST;
PRAYER UPDATE; HYMNAL RECORD FORMS FOR INTERNATIONAL PASTORS;
RECENT ORDINATIONS; INTERNATIONAL NEWS--South Africa, Canada

Y.O.U. Photo Contest Please announce the Y.O.U. National Photo Contest, which will be held from March 15 to May 15. Entrants may submit black and white or color photographs in up to five of the following categories: human interest, nature, humorous, unusual, portrait, action and general subject. Two photographs may be entered in each category for a total of 10 entries. Judging will be done by a panel of professional photographers.

Sermon Tape Recently, a sermon tape by Mr. Gerald Waterhouse was sent to all churches to be played. Mr. Waterhouse covered some material in this very inspiring sermon that he has not included in his messages to the local churches. Even though Mr. Waterhouse may have recently spoken, or will be soon speaking in your area, this sermon tape should be played in all congregations.

Prayer Request Mrs. Sylvia Van Deventer, wife of Dennis Van Deventer, pastor of the Imperial PM congregation in Pasadena, has been troubled by severe headaches and, more recently, impaired vision and hearing. It now seems apparent that Mrs. Van Deventer has a brain tumor. Please pray for God's promise of healing for Mrs. Van Deventer, as her condition was diagnosed as "life threatening."

Prayer Update Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Robertson asked that we share the following letter with you:

Thank you all for your heartfelt prayers on behalf of Jennifer Robertson. Your constant concern has been a reservoir of strength for us during this unsettling time.

We are happy to report that God is intervening and answering our prayers! Results of Jennifer's most recent tests revealed

Tuesday that the tumor is now reduced in size and the serious swelling of the ventricles has completely disappeared.

Jennifer is probably feeling better than she's ever felt in her life. She is doing wonderfully well.

Your continued prayers for Jennifer's complete healing are still very much needed and appreciated.

The Dennis Robertson Family

Hymnal Record Forms for International Pastors All international-area pastors with English-speaking churches will find a "1986 Hymnal Record" form enclosed with this issue of the "Pastor General's Report." For full details, please refer to the February 14, 1986 issue on pages 3 and 4, when the first mailing was made to all U.S. pastors.

Recent Ordinations Mr. Dennis Robertson, Ambassador College faculty member and Director of Academic Publications, was ordained a local elder on the Sabbath of February 22. Assisting in the ordination were Messrs. Selmer Hegvold, Raymond McNair, Richard Ames and Curtis May.

International News

From South Africa Members and co-workers in Southern Africa were deeply saddened by the news of the death of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, God's faithful servant for well over 50 years. They were comforted by the thought that he was no longer suffering and is now sleeping peacefully, awaiting the resurrection.

It was evident that God was directing events and Mr. Armstrong's appointment of Mr. Joseph W. Tkach as Pastor General made for what was seen as a very smooth transition of leadership. Our prayers are with Mr. Tkach as he shoulders the heavy responsibilities that now have been placed upon him.

Mail Processing: Final figures for 1985 are now at hand. During the year we received almost 443,000 pieces of mail, which represented a 10.5% decrease compared with our record-breaking 1984 figures. An average of 35,250 items were received each month.

Mail Income: We continue to be blessed with increases in the financial resources needed to do the Work. At the end of January our operating account stands at a 12.9% increase. There is a 10.3% increase in total money received.

(Submitted by Roy McCarthy, Regional Director)

From Canada The big news this month from Canada is the record responses to the telecast from our WATS lines. The tribute to Mr. Armstrong brought in 1,650 calls over the February 1-2 weekend--our highest ever. The previous record was 474.

The following week the first of the new programs by David Hulme brought in 700 calls. The next week, Mr. Hulme zeroed in on the subject of prophecy,

causing 1,016 people to phone in. The final weekend of February saw our total stand at 638.

We only have four lines in English and one in French, so we are limited in the number of calls we can receive. There is no doubt we have been missing a number of calls due to the size of the operation, so we are in the process of installing two more WATS lines for a total of seven altogether. We expect to continue breaking call-in records as the year progresses.

The month of February also saw another direct mail campaign get under way. The responses have just started to come in.

The income was very encouraging. The month ended with 21.3% increase over last year, bringing our year-to-date total to 16.5%. This is quite a few points above budget. As we enter March we are facing the possibility of yet another postal strike, this time the letter carriers. They have been without a contract since November last year. A glimmer of hope is that the government has appointed the same mediator who averted a national strike back in 1984. It is hoped he will be able to get the two sides to agree.

The Canadian finance minister in the last week of February brought down a tough budget to try to get the deficit under control. He announced again that he expects Canada Post to break even by 1987. To do this there will have to be yet another major hike in postal rates. We are already paying very high rates and it appears we will have to continue setting aside an ever-increasing amount of money for mailing purposes.

(Submitted by Colin Adair, Regional Director)

--Larry Salyer, Church Administration

AMBASSADOR COLLEGE UPDATE

Pasadena Ten openings are available for a European tour from June 18 to July 9. It is sponsored by Ambassador College, according to Richard Paige, faculty member and coordinator of the European tour program.

"This informative, 22-day tour through West Germany, Austria, Switzerland, France and England offers a balanced exposure to the natural beauty of the countryside with sight-seeing in major cities," Mr. Paige said.

Costs range from \$1,722 to \$1,900. An increase in air fares is anticipated April 1. Mr. Paige said that participants should take an additional \$200 for personal expenses.

Applicants must be at least 20 years old, in regular attendance at Sabbath services and in good health.

Interested individuals should immediately contact Mr. Paige at (818) 304-6030.

--Raymond F. McNair, Deputy Chancellor

ON THE WORLD SCENE**FRENCH MISSILE SURPRISE; PHILIPPINES/NICARAGUA PARALLEL:
AMERICA SHRINKS FROM THE CHALLENGE**

In the last "On the World Scene" column, we reported on the steady buildup of France's strategic nuclear forces, especially its submarine arsenal. France's ambitious program took another step this past week, as reported in the March 6 NEW YORK TIMES:

The French Defense Ministry announced today that a submarine had successfully fired a multiple-warhead missile over a distance of 6,000 kilometers (3,720 miles). The announcement surprised Western European defense experts, who had believed that the range of the missile, the M-4, was closer to 4,000 kilometers (2,480 miles). The announcement and the disclosure of the greater range were seen by military experts as a signal that France intended to press ahead with modernization of its nuclear forces despite Soviet objections.... The Defense Ministry said the new multiple-warhead missile would be installed on all French missile-firing submarines, replacing a shorter-range single-warhead missile....

Military experts said the missile's greater range would make French submarines more secure against attack by giving them a larger area of ocean to hide in, while still being able to hit targets in the Soviet Union. They said France might have decided that a 6,000-kilometer range was necessary to insure that its submarines could escape detection by American and Soviet antisubmarine warfare devices.

The French Defense Ministry has not disclosed how many separate charges the M-4 warhead is designed to carry. David S. Yost, in a study of French defense policy published last year by the International Institute of Strategic Studies, quotes a French defense official as having said that the new missile will deliver six charges, each with an explosive power of 150 kilotons of TNT.... [Another expert] said the number of charges might have been reduced as a trade-off to increase the range of the missile.

The reference to France wanting to make certain that its long-range subs could escape detection by both Soviet and American surveillance is noteworthy. The French are concerned that someday the Soviets and Americans could reach agreement on limiting nuclear arms in Europe and that Moscow might persuade Washington to "share" intelligence with it on the whereabouts of third-party nuclear weapons systems.

The Philippines and Nicaragua: Lessons Unlearned The United States, it turns out, was far from neutral in the recent bloodless revolution in the Philippines. Even though Secretary of State George Shultz claimed initially that the "people power" rebellion was entirely "made in the Philippines," subsequent information reveals that the U.S. was directly involved at key junctures to make certain that the uprising succeeded. When crews of a squadron of six helicopter gunships elected to defect to

the Aquino side, the craft were refueled and serviced at Clark Air Base. Fixed-wing craft were also serviced at Clark. U.S. military facilities were also used to keep communications links open between units of the defecting forces.

Some U.S. congressmen and senators pride themselves that they have helped "restore democracy" to the Philippines. Yet, one wonders about the long-range implications of Washington's interventionism. Other less-than-democratic governments in Asia--America's allies in a tense, strategic region--are wary. A dangerous precedent may have been set. Within a few days the Roman Catholic primate of South Korea, Stephen Cardinal Kim Son Hwan, expressed open support for opposition demands for swift constitutional changes and early direct presidential elections. Unlike in the Philippines, Christian-professing Koreans make up only 25 percent of the population, most of these Protestant. But President Chun Doo Hwan did not appreciate the Cardinal's support for South Korea's noisome political opposition. He fears divisiveness that could wreck South Korea's fragile unity. For South Korea, the Communist threat is far more menacing than in the Philippines, consisting of heavily armed and fanatically indoctrinated North Korea, whose border is only 40 kilometers from Seoul.

For the United States, the Philippines involvement highlights a glaring contradiction in U.S. foreign policy. If it was necessary to take action to remove Mr. Marcos in order to restore democracy in the Philippines, some ask, why then the reluctance in Congress to restore democracy and eliminate Communist dictatorships in Nicaragua and Angola? The editor of COMMENTARY magazine, Norman Podhoretz, wrote the following in the March 7 LOS ANGELES TIMES:

If a conservative Republican congressman like Rep. Gerald B. H. Solomon (R-N.Y.), who had in the past seen Marcos as "a bastion against the spread of international communism," could join with a liberal Democratic congressman like Stephen J. Solarz (D-N.Y.) in helping to topple the Marcos government on the ground that election fraud had robbed it of "legitimacy," by what moral or intellectual right does Solarz now refuse to join Solomon in trying to topple the Sandinista regime, which held an infinitely more fraudulent election in November, 1984?... Clearly, the moment of truth has arrived for the Democrats in Congress and the liberal community in general....

Nobody really wants to say it out loud in Washington, but the truth is, the Communists are much more difficult to dislodge, and it might--horror of horrors!--take direct armed intervention on the part of the U.S. to do so. Congress is simply in no mood for a fight above the level of the Grenada action. In a mini-debate on ABC television news, columnist George Will challenged a liberal representative from California. "If not Nicaragua," asked Will, "then where? If not now, then when?" The Congressman replied, in part, "We don't want to get involved." There's a big market for ostrich feathers in Congress.

The fact is, the United States has not recovered from its shattering defeat in Vietnam, which broke the pride in its power (Lev. 26:19). William Safire tackled this subject in the March 10 NEW YORK TIMES article entitled "Defeating Defeatism."

Last year...Congress was able to limit aid to the contras to bandages while Moscow was providing its puppet regime with gunships. As a result, the apostles of defeat are saying with self-fulfilling accuracy: See? The contras are losing, and no mass appeal can be generated behind a losing cause; therefore, let's not throw good money after bad....

Under assault from the self-victimizers, the Reagan White House will be tempted to settle for half the money requested, or support that is limited to half bandages and half small arms. That sort of Solomonic compromise would be a bigger mistake than outright surrender.... The usual compromise, resulting in a policy of hand-to-mouth armed annoyance, would be met with scorn in Managua and would signal the rebel leaders that we consider them pawns rather than players.

Latent support crystallizes when the possibility of victory is real; unless we open up that possibility with powerful armaments, we guarantee failure.... [Let there be] no slow starvation of the contras; no piecemeal involvement of the U.S.; no sure defeat brought about by the debilitating, demoralizing dribbling of aid by...defeatists. Instead, let us have a fair test of whether enough arms and training, delivered in time, will enable anti-Communists to turn out the corrupt and repressive Ortega regime.

The real lesson of Vietnam has not been learned: That a nation cannot fight halfheartedly, with a "draw" rather than victory as the goal, reluctantly increasing its commitment only in reaction to the forces applied by the other side. This policy leads only to moral attrition and eventual defeat. Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger is also disturbed by America's skewed foreign policy. He wrote in the March 9 LOS ANGELES TIMES:

The American conduct in the Philippines has not been matched by a comparable attitude against noisome regimes in Africa or the Middle East, not to speak of the Communist Bloc. Ethiopia continues to receive economic aid despite plausible reports of genocidal practices; the secretary of commerce calls for increased trade with the Soviet Bloc. None of these governments will ever be charged with fraudulently counting votes, since no opposition candidate will survive to that stage of the political process. Only in the Philippines...was civil and military disobedience actively encouraged by U.S. spokesmen....

I have grave concerns about the implications of these actions for the future, especially if this special case emerges as a general strategy. It should be noted that one group of countries was conspicuous by its refusal to join the general self-congratulation. Neighbors of the Philippines such as Indonesia, Thailand or South Korea know that some of their domestic practices--though less flagrant than Marcos' practices--could not stand the kind of scrutiny recently applied in Manila. Will they become the next targets of a new American strategy? Will opposition groups seek to trigger U.S.

intervention by mass demonstrations, or will governments try to forestall this by an increase in repression?...

A national discussion over...the relationship between American values and American security is long overdue. Clearly, security without values is like a ship without a rudder; but values without security are like a rudder without a ship. The United States has a duty to defend its democratic ideals. But if American policy winds up harassing friendly governments and dithering about hostile ones we will find ourselves ultimately in a very lonely world.

Political analyst Ben Wattenberg was an official U.S. observer during the Philippine elections. Here, in a March 7 WALL STREET JOURNAL report, is his jaundiced view of what really went on, and how the U.S. media, unabashedly one-sided, gave a distorted view of events, contributing to U.S. governmental actions.

It is by now the received wisdom that Corazon Aquino became president of the Philippines because corrupt dictator Ferdinand Marcos and his thieving henchmen held a massively fraudulent election in a near-totalitarian thug state.... It must be so: Americans saw it with their own eyes on television. I didn't. During election week I was a member of the presidential election team headed by Sen. Richard Lugar (R., Ind.). My sense is that something quite different went on in the Philippines, a country, that, as our State Department briefer had told us, was one of the freest in Southeast Asia.... There was, by Filipino standards, a normal quotient of fraud, which is plenty. The election was mildly close. In a truly fair contest, I believe Mrs. Aquino would have clearly won....

This may be hard to believe, but the general impression of most of the teams was that they had seen an imperfect but truly remarkable electoral scene. Brace yourself: Some of us felt that in some important respects the process was more open, more participatory, and, most critically, more public than U.S. elections.... At the grass-roots level, all of the teams heard rumors about harassment, intimidation and bribery. I have never been in a more conspiratorial environment. However, it usually was very hard to find much skulduggery that could be documented....

Back in Manila, many delegation members spoke with their families back in the U.S., and we began to understand how the election had been covered. Our relatives were petrified: Did the goons get you? Did you see gunfire? It's so terrible that those thugs stole the election! It is said disparagingly of some public figures that they cannot walk and chew gum at the same time. The same must be said of a hungry international press pack, particularly those from television: They cannot cover two stories at once. There was only one story in the air in Manila, and it was being pumped out from every corner: fraud, corruption and violence. The reporting we got at home was surely not a lie; it was only unrepresentative of the total reality on the ground.

A word should be said about NAMFREL. To its everlasting credit, there could not have been even a mildly free election without it.... It should be noted that, by their own estimates, at least 90 percent of the NAMFREL people were pro-Aquino.... And NAMFREL leaders were masterfully marketing the stories of fraud even before the election took place. The political thrust of their pitch was elemental: If Aquino lost, the fix was in....

The Nicaraguan election of 1984 makes the Marcos election of 1986 look like it was run by the Honest Ballot Association. The Nicaraguan election had everything except an opposition that was allowed to compete. Unlike the Philippines, communism in Nicaragua is not a potential threat; it's already there, a Soviet and Cuban-backed reality. It is not 8,000 miles from America; it is close by. For Cory Aquino, read Arturo Cruz, Alfonso Robelo and Adolfo Calero, democrats all, trying to bring pluralist democracy, Filipino-style, to Nicaragua. Alas, the Sandinistas will not flee the country in the face of a media wave....

Shortly after the election I saw, on a television program, an independent reporter telling his story of how, in Manila, he asked a writer-producer of a major U.S. network his assessment of the long-range implications of the Philippines election. The network man replied that he hadn't had time to think about that, that what he was interested in at the moment was violence!

--Gene Hogberg, News Bureau