

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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Dear Ministers,

Last week I mentioned the outstanding results of the "World Tomorrow" program on the resurrection. This week we have more good news! "The Plain Truth About Easter" brought in 31,863 weekend WATS calls, making it the new third-highest ever! Last year the program on Easter received 17,585 calls, which was at that time the highest response in the Work's history. This year's average weekend response (26,500) surpasses last year's record programs and is nearly double last year's average (14,700).

Interestingly, there was a minor earthquake in Berkeley, California, just as the program was ending on Easter Sunday. Several callers mentioned the quake--it even prompted a few to call who otherwise wouldn't have. One caller said: "During the broadcast in Berkeley, California, there was an earthquake. What are you people trying to do, shake up the world?" Another one said: "I was watching the program and when it ended I went to take my bath. I walked away from the TV and felt the earthquake so I ran to my phone and dialed the number on the screen. I had always wondered about Easter anyway."

Well, I thought you'd enjoy those. But earthquakes or not, I know you and your wives' faithful prayers for these programs are being heard on high.

What an enjoyable visit we had to Chicago this past Sabbath, March 29. It's always a great pleasure to visit one's home, but how much more when it is to fellowship with beloved brethren in Christ! I was able to speak to more than 3,600 brethren assembled at the old Auditorium Theatre in downtown Chicago. It was such a joy to meet with so many brethren I had known more than 25 years ago in the original Chicago congregation. Newer brethren often commented that they felt they knew me even though they'd never met me, because of the stories told them by the older timers. Well, I don't know what all those stories were, but I know I enjoyed meeting so many of God's people. On Sunday, I was able to visit with some of the elderly shut-ins I knew when I served in Chicago. What a wonderful pleasure to see some of those "old, familiar faces" again. Surely there is a wealth of wisdom and experience among the elderly brethren in God's Church.

IN THIS ISSUE

From the Pastor General. . . .	1
From Church Administration . . .	2
Treasurer's Report	5
Mail Processing Update	6

We are pleased and encouraged by the dramatic increase in new co-workers in the past three months--9,086 have been added, a 39 percent increase over the same period last year.

As Mr. Neff mentions in his update in this issue of the "Pastor General's Report," we do need to pray for generous offerings during the upcoming Holy Days. God does supply our needs, and we need to be looking to Him for that. We must also do our part to be wise and faithful stewards of what God gives us. Continue to pray for God's guidance in all phases of His Work.

As mentioned last week, let's take full advantage of these few days we have remaining prior to the Passover to be examining ourselves before God. God's love and mercy toward us is truly astounding. Let's draw closer to Him in prayer and seek His will wholeheartedly.

With love, in Christ's service,

Joseph W. Tkach

FROM CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

PASSOVER PREPARATION; FESTIVAL NOTICE; S.E.P. NOTICE; INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Passover Preparation While it seems impossible to me, the Days of Unleavened Bread are almost upon us. I trust that we are all doing our part to prepare God's people for the Passover and Holy Days. In these hectic times it would be all too easy for brethren to arrive at the Passover service lacking understanding of the real meaning of this most solemn occasion. We must be preaching the word in season (II Timothy 4:2).

In the past several years Mr. Tkach has given the ministry detailed instructions for the Spring Holy Days. You may wish to refer to the Pastor General's Report of March 8, 1985 for the complete text but I will give you highlights here for review.

With the tremendous growth we are experiencing, we need to be especially cognizant of the needs of new members. Pastors should thoroughly explain, on a Sabbath prior to Passover, the meaning and solemnity of the Passover service. You should also give the brethren the necessary instructions about conduct at the Passover. Remind them that only baptized members are to attend or participate in the service, which is a sacred ceremony for Spirit-begotten children of God.

Also prepare God's people for the Night to Be Much Observed and the Days of Unleavened Bread. It's too late to tell new members how to get out the physical leaven after these days have begun. That should be the time for developing the spiritual analogy of putting sin out of our lives.

Regarding the Night to Be Much Observed, let me quote Mr. Tkach from the aforementioned "Pastor General's Report":

Regarding the upcoming Night to Be Much Observed, it should again be observed the same way as in the past several years.

Groups of two or three families should eat and fellowship together in an attitude of thankfulness and rejoicing for the deliverance from sin that we as New Testament Christians experience. The host or leading man should ask God's blessing on the meal and the occasion, but no further "sermonizing" should be done.

Surely all of the brethren will be eagerly anticipating the Holy Days. You can edify your congregation by helping them to be fully prepared for them. Emphasize the importance of advance preparation for the Night to Be Much Observed so that all is done "decently and in order." Remember that nonmember mates should be made to feel welcome to attend. Of course we should maintain the dignity and spiritual fellowship of this special observance in both our conduct and our conversation.

On a related matter, I want to remind you pastors of your responsibility of taking up the Holy Day offering. The easiest way to do this is again to quote Mr. Tkach from instructions given for the Feast of Tabernacles:

Mr. Herbert Armstrong's approach has always been a balanced one--not putting undue pressure on the brethren to give what they do not have. However, they should be encouraged to give as they have been blessed by God. Giving to God should always be an act of faith. There are many scriptures that can be used to show the proper attitude of giving, where our hearts need to be and what a Christian's responsibilities are in this regard.

Although you should not take the approach of doing a "sales job" on the congregation, you have been charged with the duty of properly orienting God's people about their responsibility and calling to assist God's apostle in completing this great Work.

Please continue to pray for Mr. Tkach as he carries the heavy load Christ has placed on his shoulders. The Work here continues full speed ahead! We are praying for all of you.

Festival Notice

Please note: The French Canadian Feast site--north of Quebec city--is already filled. However, we still have room at the other French Feast sites.

Notice to U.S. and Canadian Church Pastors

We realize that some of the S.E.P. applications were late in reaching various church areas. In such cases, please make every effort to have the applications mailed back by April 15, 1986.

International News

From the Philippines God's people in the Philippines were both saddened and sobered by the news of the death of Mr. Armstrong, which reached most of them at services on January 18.

However, throughout the country, members expressed their support and backing for the new Pastor General, Mr. Joseph Tkach. It was evident the brethren understood and handled well this transition, which is a milestone in the history of God's Church.

In February, the Philippines snatched world headlines with a disputed election and then a sudden change of government coming in a surprising manner. It was a time when emotions and political viewpoints clouded the actual events, and when many were seriously afraid of civil war.

The members in the Philippines are sobered by the turn of events and the speed with which the transfer of power took place. The seriousness of the times weighs on them all, and they are praying that the new government, which is strongly supported by and derives some of its impetus from the Roman Catholic Church, will bring a measure of stability and economic recovery so that God's Church may complete the Work God has called it to accomplish in the Philippines. The situation has now returned to normal.

In mid-February, right between the election and the change of government, we were privileged to receive as guests Mr. Don Miller and Mr. Ritchie Gaston from Financial Services in Pasadena. This was another of their series of office visits to assist the regional areas with budgeting and financial planning. They were able to review the 1986 budget for the Philippines and make recommendations on various office functions.

The ministers have been busy with a flood of new contacts over the past two months. Records were broken in January, with 68 people being added to the files as prospective members, and again in February with another 68 new people contacting the office or ministry seeking personal contact with the Church. To these highest-ever figures, we added 29 baptisms in January, another near-record.

There are now 40 churches and eight outlying Bible studies in the country and membership is 1,900 with attendance reaching 3,300.

(Submitted by Guy Ames, Regional Director)

From Australia We are late in producing the Monthly Comments for February due to preparations for and attending the Australian and Asian regional ministerial conference held in early March.

The special television programme--"A Tribute To Herbert W. Armstrong"--aired February 16 and pulled an outstanding response. The WATS-line response to this special telecast was the highest ever received, and four and a half times higher than the average response in 1985.

Numerous comments were received from the callers expressing sadness at the death of Mr. Armstrong but they were encouraged to hear that the telecast would continue to be produced by men personally taught by Mr. Armstrong. Interest in Mr. Armstrong's new book, "Mystery of the Ages," was exceptionally high.

Mr. David Hulme's first television program, entitled "What Will the Future Bring?", aired the following week, was received exceptionally well by viewers. Many positive comments were made. The response to Mr. Hulme's program was the third-highest on record, beaten only by the tribute to Mr. Armstrong and one other program aired in 1985, entitled, "Ascent to Greatness." We are delighted with this continuing and heightened interest in the "World Tomorrow" telecast.

Excellent increases in both incoming and outgoing mail were recorded in February. Incoming mail for the month totaled 34,890 letters--a 52.1 percent increase over February 1985. Our year-to-date increase for incoming mail now stands at 15.4 percent.

Outgoing mail for the month totaled 78,571 separate items of mail--a 54.4 percent increase over February last year. Our year-to-date increase for outgoing mail is now 23.4 percent.

In February a four-color advertisement for the "Plain Truth" magazine was placed in the Singapore edition of "Reader's Digest." The main headline in this advertisement reads, "MONEY CAN'T BUY THIS MAGAZINE, BUT WE'LL SEND IT TO YOU FREE!"

So far 2,105 responses have been received--4.6% of the "Reader's Digest" circulation in Singapore.

We continue to be most encouraged by the increase in the number of people requesting contact with a minister of God's Church. Visit requests so far this year have risen by 38.8%.

(Submitted by Robert Morton, Regional Director)

--Larry Salyer, Director of Church Administration

TREASURER'S REPORT

The first quarter of the year has now passed. We are pleased financially with the progress, but as always hope for even greater increases in the future.

Even though the actual increase for this month is a little lower than a month ago, it is still above budget projections. Last year by this time, we had received considerable "tithe-of-the-tithe" contributions. But since the festivals occur later this year according to the Roman calendar, the letter concerning these contributions was sent out later.

The actual increase for March was 4 percent and for the year-to-date 8.3 percent. If the "tithe-of-the-tithe" amounts were deleted from last year's figure, the amounts would be 12.3 percent and 11.2 percent

respectively. These last figures show a more realistic comparison between the years.

My next monthly report will be published after the Feast of Unleavened Bread. We are hoping that all the brethren will be prepared for generous Holy Day offerings. If so, we should be better prepared financially for the new doors that are opening to preach the gospel in Europe.

--Leroy Neff, Treasurer

MAIL PROCESSING UPDATE

U.S. STATISTICS; RESTORED TRUTHS; TV RESPONSE; IN-HOME PROGRAM

U.S. Statistics God's Work experienced positive growth across the board during the first three months of 1986. All-time records were once again set in most major categories. Here are the figures:

<u>Category</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>Increase</u>
Total Mail Received	1,256,905	1,533,497	22.0%
Average Mail Received (per working day)	19,552	23,849	22.0%
• Books and Booklets Sent	947,436	1,907,096	101.3%
New Names Added to File**	517,334	514,741	-0.5%
• TV WATS Calls	187,000	397,211	112.4%
Member Count	57,046	59,185	3.7%
• Co-Worker Count	57,394	68,961	20.2%
Donor Count	102,393	110,607	8.0%
New CC Students (Jan.-Feb.)	18,608	19,802	6.4%

** Includes first-time requests for literature, as well as for all monthly publications. Last year's figures were unusually high because of responses from the READER'S DIGEST ad.

Restored Truths In "Mystery of the Ages" Mr. Armstrong stated: "At least 18 basic and essential truths have been restored to the true Church." We have compiled a list from Mr. Armstrong's writings, sermons and lectures to the ministry. Major doctrines and teachings which have been restored to their present fullness in the Church include the following:

- * Who and what God is.
- * God's purpose--to reproduce Himself through mankind.

did you notice these?

- * What man is.
- * The human spirit that is in man.
- * The true Gospel, how the world lost it and how it came to be restored.
- * God's government in the Church.
- * Only those called of God can come to Christ.
- * This is not the only day of salvation--the Church represents only the "firstfruits" of God's spiritual "harvest."
- * True Christians are not yet "born again," but are begotten by receiving God's Holy Spirit.
- * True spiritual knowledge and understanding are given by God through His Holy Spirit to the Church. It is the responsibility of Christ's ministry to authoritatively teach these biblical truths to those God is calling.
- * Resurrection to judgment.
- * The authority of God's sacred calendar for the Church.
- * How to prove the weekly cycle, that Saturday is the seventh day of the week.
- * The Holy Days and God's master plan.
- * Proper understanding of prophecy (especially who and what is the "beast").
- * The identity of the United States and Britain in prophecy.
- * The second tithe for keeping God's festivals.
- * The third tithe for support of the widows and the fatherless.

The above basic truths may have been stated slightly differently on occasion by Mr. Armstrong. This listing is being made available from Personal Correspondence with the approval of Mr. Tkach. The list may be extended as God continues to give greater understanding to His Church.

TV Response The "World Tomorrow" program continues to bring in record responses so far this year. Listed below is a recap of the last 10 telecasts of this year.

<u>Airing Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Response</u>
Jan. 25-26	Tribute to Herbert W. Armstrong	81,359
Feb. 1-2	What Will the Future Bring?	19,332
Feb. 8-9	Where Are We Now in Bible Prophecy?	44,207
Feb. 15-16	The Key to Unlock Bible Prophecy	21,039

Feb. 22-23	The U.S. and Britain in Prophecy	22,147
March 1-2	What Is Man?	15,471
March 8-9	What Is Man's Ultimate Destiny?	17,762
March 15-16	Did God Create a Devil?	17,771
March 22-23	The Resurrection Was Not on Sunday	28,154
March 29-30	The Plain Truth About Easter	31,853

In-Home Program The WATS In-Home Program continues to expand to many different cities. Over 2,200 operators from 75 congregations have now been trained to take WATS calls in their homes. Most recently, training seminars were held in Des Moines, Iowa, and Cincinnati and Cambridge, Ohio.

Members from 10 more churches in the Chicago, Illinois, and St. Louis, Missouri, areas will be trained during April. This will bring the total number of volunteers to 3,000. Those participating are thrilled with the opportunity and have sent in many letters of gratitude. Here are a few:

"I just finished serving my first time on the WATS In-Home Program. How exciting! I took 18 calls. It's really great when I think of all the money this saves the Work. I just can't thank you enough for the privilege of being able to be a part of this!"

"It is thrilling to realize that these calls, which are a direct support to the front line of the Work, reach into our very homes. It is humbling to realize how powerfully God can use our 'little strength.'"

"This program has brought home the reality of the Work--the scope, the challenge and the awesome responsibility. It is always a thrill to talk with the variety of people who contact God's Work."

"I remember back a little over three years ago, when I first called the Work. It was the most important call I had ever made in my life. I remember the man's friendly voice and helpfulness, and this was at 3 a.m. Well, now I can be that man."

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center