

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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APRIL 11, 1986

Dear Ministers of Jesus Christ,

Have you ever considered just what comprises unity? We know that God is the ultimate source of unity and we can have that unity in us through His Holy Spirit. But how is unity expressed in us?

Jesus Christ prayed on the evening before His death that His Father's Church would be one, even as He and His Father were one. He prayed to the Father that the Church would be one "in us" (John 17:21-22). That is, the Church is to be in complete oneness, or unity, with Jesus and the Father who are themselves in perfect unity. But how are they unified?

Jesus told His apostles in John 15:1-7 that if we abide or live in Him we can bear fruit. He compared us to branches on a vine. Unless we are part of the vine, abiding in Christ and He in us, we are worthless, unable to bear fruit, drying up, ready for the fire. He tells us that without Him we can do nothing (verse 5). Now notice verses 9 and 10: "As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love."

Jesus makes it clear that we must keep His commandments if we are to abide in Him. He makes it clear in Matthew 5:17-48 and elsewhere that the keeping of His commandments must be more than just the physical actions of keeping them. It must be in the heart. It must be a way of life--not only a way of doing, but also a way of thinking.

The apostle Paul told us to bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ (II Corinthians 10:4-5). That has to do with obeying God, keeping His commandments in our hearts, not only in our actions, though it certainly includes our actions.

Proverbs 3:1 says, "My son, forget not my law, but let thine heart keep my commandments." Notice it says "let thine heart keep my commandments." The unity that we are to have with God and with one another through His Spirit, which is based upon keeping His law in our hearts, must be more than just actions! This unity, like God's law, must become a part of us--part of our very nature.

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God the Father and Jesus Christ are in agreement. Jesus says He kept His Father's commandments. He says He spoke not His own words but His Father's. He didn't just "go along with" His Father, He wholeheartedly submitted Himself to His Father.

In like manner, we must each follow His example, submitting

ourselves to God in mind and heart. Jesus not only kept God's law--He agreed with it. Because He and the Father were one, it was Jesus' law also. He kept it, lived by it in spirit and in truth--not grudgingly, nor with indifference. He wholeheartedly, actively supported, promoted and believed in it. It was part of Him. So it must become with us.

Unity is a state of mind. It is a way of thinking. And with God's people that unity is based upon God's perfect law. You ministers need to set an example of unity not only in actions, but in attitude. You can't just "go along" with this policy or that, while displaying disagreement to close friends. If you have a sincere lack of understanding, then you have a responsibility to 1) communicate it to your superiors at headquarters, and if you still don't understand, 2) keep it to yourself, following Paul's admonition in Romans 16:17-18. But you should go to God in prayer, asking Him for the understanding. In Psalms 111:10, we are told, "A good understanding have all they that do His commandments." Obedience comes before the understanding. Understanding is a product of obedience. Similarly, when we support God's government in the Church on a particular matter, praying for understanding while carefully avoiding division, God will grant the understanding.

Unity is therefore based also upon faith. To have unity we must have faith in God's ability to lead His Church and to work through His government in it. When faith sags, so does unity. When faith in God is strong, so is unity among those who have it. And from where does faith come? From Jesus Christ, the vine, with whom we are to be one.

Let's deeply appreciate this upcoming Passover service. How blessed we are to have the precious blood of our Savior applied to us! How merciful God is to have called us and to have granted us repentance from the way of death to the way of eternal life!

God continues to lead us. Telecast response last weekend was the second highest ever--45,290 weekend calls! The Work God is doing through His Church marches forward. As our ways please God, He will bless us. You ministers must be champions of God's Word, both in word and deed.

Thank you for your prayers and your labor of love,

Sincerely, in Christian love,

Joseph W. Tkach

FROM CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

HOLY DAY SERMONS; STATUS UPDATES; CHANGE OF ADDRESS; SUPPLIES;
FESTIVAL NOTICE; INTERNATIONAL NEWS--NEW ZEALAND, CARIBBEAN; ANNOUNCEMENT

Holy Day Sermons For many of you this will be the last "Pastor General's Report" you will receive prior to the spring holy days. Let me encourage

you now to do your utmost to edify the brethren during this season. Yield yourself to God as His instrument, feeding the flock He has committed to your care. Spend extra time in prayer and study so that you are filled with the mind of Christ and able to inspire God's people as they come before Him in these holy convocations. Let the Holy Spirit stir you up with conviction and faith so that you can preach powerful, moving sermons. Clearly expound the scriptures relating to the holy days, teaching the brethren how they picture the master plan of God. Make it plain so that even the newest member can understand.

If you have been in your area for many years, you may worry about giving the same old sermon. Don't get caught in the trap of giving something different at the expense of meat in due season. Don't feel the need to apologize for repetition. Of course, there are many ways to approach the subject and there is a wealth of material in God's Word, so surely you can add a little variety and still give sound, basic sermons picturing God's purpose being worked out in our lives.

The arrival of Passover season represents for many the beginning of preparation for the Feast of Tabernacles itself. You might want to take advantage of that anticipation to put real emphasis on the Days of Unleavened Bread, showing the necessity of putting sin out of our lives before inheriting the Kingdom of God. I know you can do it if you let Christ work through you and really get excited about the awesome truths God has revealed only to His Church.

We pray for God's richest blessings on you and your family as well as your whole congregation as we keep these holy days.

Status Updates--United States Membership We want to use this opportunity to remind you of the need to keep current with member updates. In just two or three weeks you'll be receiving the first Feast sign-up listings. Please remember that the Feast sign-up process is also designed to eliminate the annual update that we used to have to do. By doing both jobs at the same time, it should save considerable time and effort. Last year, we frequently had listings returned that didn't have a single update of addresses, baptisms, deaths, disassociations or ordinations. Although it is possible that this would occasionally happen, the chances of it occurring frequently are quite unlikely.

Change of Address Recently we studied the change-of-address forms that come in through the field ministry. Out of 42 forms with effective dates, 32 were dated almost a month previous and one was dated six months earlier! Please make every effort to send change of address forms in on the Monday or Tuesday following the Sabbath that the forms were submitted. Without the appropriate updates, mail may be delayed or even cut off for a period of time that might vary from days to weeks and even months.

Passover and Holy Day Supplies Because of the limited budget for miscellaneous supplies for Passover and the Holy Days, we must ask that you request approval from Church Administration before you make a purchase.

As a reminder, we discourage renting towels for the foot-washing ceremony. Rather, it would be more appropriate to ask each member to bring a towel for his or her own use.

FESTIVAL NOTICE

X

The toll-free number for Travel Inc., the travel agency in Puerto Rico, has not been properly programmed by the phone company. The number given was incorrect--the correct number is (800) 468-2494. If you experience difficulties reaching the agency, please call the other numbers listed in the brochure.

Also, due to contractual difficulties with the Mt. Irvine Bay Hotel at the Tobago Feast site, we will not be offering it as a lodging establishment for this year's Feast. The extra space necessary has been reserved at the Crown Reef Hotel and services will be held in the Golden Thistle.

International News

From Canada The WATS lines continued to be very productive during this month. Mr. Richard Ames' second telecast produced a total of 747 calls, up from his first telecast of the previous week, which brought just over 490 calls. Perhaps the review of the first program coupled with the one on Easter caused more people to feel they should call in. It is encouraging to see more people respond in Canada, as they have traditionally been reluctant to do so.

For the year-to-date, we have received 3,629 calls, which is 135.3% over 1985.

Thankfully, the threatened postal strike didn't materialize. However, it seems the Post Office is not processing mail as fast or as efficiently as it should be. We have experienced low days in mail this month with occasional big days, rather than a steady flow as in the past.

In March last year most tithe of the tithe was sent in, but the brethren have not yet sent it in for this year. As a result our mail income was 4 percent, bringing our year-to-date total to just over 9%. We hope that April will see a large increase as the tithe of the tithe starts to arrive, and that we will catch up.

In the Church division, many pastors have been planning or conducting "Plain Truth" subscriber Bible lectures. Interest is high at present, with many reporting very fine responses in new people attending. Whereas we used to get about 1% response to the invitational letter sent to readers, the results recently have been between 2% and 4%. It has been especially good in large city areas. Most of the lectures have been dealing with Canada's place in prophecy.

Our direct mail campaign has produced just over 40,000 responses to date and the returns are still coming in. We hope to reach the 50,000 mark or higher.

(Submitted by Colin Adair, Regional Director)

TO BE READ IN ALL U.S. CHURCHES

There is an immediate need in the Church Publishing Department for an experienced press operator. Candidates should have at least three to five years experience in operating medium and small two-color, offset printing presses. Applicants should be high school graduates with two years training in offset printing preferred.

Please contact Joe Slevin at the Personnel Office if interested. The number to call is (818) 304-6100. Or write to the Personnel Office, 300 West Green Street, Pasadena, CA 91129.

Only individuals authorized to work in the United States should apply.

--Larry R. Salyer, Director of Church Administration

ON THE WORLD SCENE

TERRORISM: WORST YET TO COME; GORBACHEV COURTS EUROPEANS;
CAMPUS CRUSADE OF THE '80S

As the world careens into the second half of the 1980s, the face of radical terrorism becomes ever more grim. The terrorist who blew a hole in the side of a TWA 727 airliner over Greece on April 2 did more than damage the plane and kill four American passengers. The wanton act threatens to cripple the global travel industry.

Concerned about recent incidents of mid-air hijackings and bombings, airport waiting lounge massacres and bombs exploding in popular tourist spots and restaurants, Americans--who appear to be the main targets--are changing their travel plans this year. They will be vacationing more at home, elsewhere in the Western Hemisphere or in East Asia (still relatively untouched by terrorist mayhem). Bookings to Europe and the Middle East, on the other hand, are off sharply. Excursions to Greece, for example, are expected to drop to half of those last year; hotel cancellations in Italy are running at 30 percent over 1985 and rising; Egypt's tourist industry, still smarting from terrorist incidents last year, is said to be in ruins. Travel to Israel by Americans is also down sharply, though mostly on airlines other than El Al. Israel's national

*Italy
swelling
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North.*

airline is holding its own, a tribute to the carrier's tough security precautions.

What is most frightening about the explosion aboard TWA Flight 840 is the apparent ease with which the terrorist eluded airport security measures at Cairo airport. This may have been due to the bomber's use of a hard-to-detect plastic explosive. Last Friday, an explosives expert showed a nationwide TV audience on CBS news how innocent-looking some plastic explosive devices are. He displayed several bombs which looked to be nothing more than thin pieces of cardboard, easily carried in either a suitcase or a briefcase. Most amazingly, he next displayed several yards of what looked to be twine--again, a plastic bomb. Such "twine" could be used to wrap a "gift" and be carried right aboard a plane. Of course the explosive would still need to be detonated. But the expert showed that the appropriate timer-detonator was so small it could actually be concealed inside an ink pen.

Another CBS report claimed that Libya had recently employed at least a dozen U.S. and Canadian explosives experts in training would-be terrorists in bomb-making techniques. An American, who was one of these instructors, was asked what the Libyans wanted him to teach. He replied: "How to make home-made bombs, how to defeat security, assassination techniques and things of that nature." Asked what type of people were his students, he replied curtly: "Assassins." He further said that the Libyans used some East Bloc personnel as teachers, but preferred to use Americans because of "the advanced technology we have in explosives and electronics." The motives of the American and Canadian teachers for doing such instruction, he added, "was money."

Because of the increased use of plastic explosives, the U.S. Federal Aviation Agency is spending \$12 million this year on explosives detection research. One possible countermeasure is called "thermal neutron activation." Using this technology, luggage is bombarded with low-intensity neutron particles that interact with nitrogen found in all explosives. But the use of hard-to-detect plastic explosives is not the end of the story. We have lately received several news accounts about the development of--hold your breath!--a plastic gun! Such a weapon (actually part metal, part plastic) is already produced in Austria, and licensed for import to the United States. A reporter in the March 10 issue of MACLEAN'S called it "the hijacker's special." The plastic gun is indeed for real, as syndicated columnists Jack Anderson and Dale Van Atta wrote in their March 14 column:

We stirred up a tempest of alarm, denial and malicious innuendo when we reported recently that Libyan dictator Muammar Khadafy, the terrorists' friend, was dickering to buy a quantity of Austrian-made, semi-plastic pistols that are difficult or impossible for airport security measures to detect. The pistol is the Glock 17, invented by an Austrian, Gaston Glock, and manufactured at a plant outside Vienna. Our intelligence sources told us Khadafy was trying to buy 100 to 300 of the handguns.

*Arabs
United*

We also reported that a Pentagon security expert had succeeded twice in carrying a dismantled Glock 17 through the human and mechanical weapons detectors at Washington's National Airport. After our January report, Glock and the Austrian government began issuing refutations in press releases and telegrams to major publications. Their concern was presumably heightened by the fact that Glock is attempting to market the pistol in the United States. One Pentagon spokesman had the nerve to tell a journalist that he doubted the existence of the "Pentagon security expert" we said had tested the Glock 17 against airport security. For the record: The man who conducted the unofficial test is the Pentagon's top expert on counter-terrorism, Noel Koch, the principal deputy assistant defense secretary.

Glock told anyone who would listen that tests under the supervision of unnamed "official security specialists" showed clearly that "both scanners and detectors can identify the Glock 17," which has a mass that is 83 percent steel and only 17 percent plastic. The point, of course, is that the metal parts which are detectable, don't look like gun parts, while the plastic parts, which do look like a gun, escape detection. Koch proved this twice with a dismantled Glock 17.

In fact, Rep. Mario Biaggi, D-N.Y., settled the matter beyond any nitpicking. One of his aides hand-carried the most recognizable part of a Glock 17--its plastic pistol-shaped frame--through a Capitol Hill metal detector without having it spotted. The rest of the pistol's parts, mostly metal, were in his briefcase and went through the scanner without being identified. [In a test conducted by ABC News, a person carrying the metal parts was stopped, but only because the scanner operator wanted a closer look at the metal. Operators are now being educated as to the profiles of the parts. The quality of the operators is now the essential factor.] Meanwhile, both the Federal Aviation Administration and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms suddenly decided the problem of plastic handguns deserved attention. The aviation agency has since learned of a U.S.-made, all-plastic pistol, which is not yet on the market but which would be undetectable by a metal-scanning device....

How serious is the problem of a gun that can beat the airport security machines? Some FAA figures should make clear that it's deadly serious. Since mandatory screening procedures went into effect at U.S. airports in 1973, more than 33,000 firearms have been detected and almost 14,000 related arrests have been made. Officials estimate that at least 113 hijackings have been prevented. Footnote: Glock told us he has never sold his pistols to Libya, and has no ongoing negotiations to do so. But other sources told us that, without Glock's knowledge, Khadafy was trying to buy the guns through intermediaries in Austria....

Apparently one "advantage" of the part-plastic gun is the fact that it is considerably lighter than an all-metal gun. The Glock 17 is already the standard sidearm of the 25,000-member Austrian army. Nevertheless, the manufacture of the Glock 17 and its certain successors, noted the communications director of the National Coalition to Ban Handguns, sets "a terrifying example of progress outpacing common sense."

Moscow Courting Europe in a Big Way U.S.-Soviet relations, slightly improved as a result of last year's Geneva summit, ran into a snag recently when the U.S. government ordered Moscow to trim over a hundred people from its mission to the United Nations in New York. At last count the Soviets had a huge staff of 275 people attached to their U.N. staff in addition to six hundred Soviets being on the U.N.'s own payroll in various capacities. (This makes a total, said the April 11 NATIONAL REVIEW sarcastically, of "nearly nine hundred Kremlin-approved and certified toilers for peace and world unity.") The major reason for the U.S. demand for a scale-back is that it had become almost impossible for the FBI to keep tabs on the Soviet mission personnel, many of whom are known to be in New York solely for espionage purposes. As long as President Reagan is in the White House, U.S.-Soviet relations will be frosty at best. Meanwhile, an article in the March 27 TIMES of London told of the Kremlin's latest propaganda offensive in Western Europe. Headlined "Gorbachev Determined to Separate Europe from U.S.," it reported in part:

The Kremlin is launching a big propaganda offensive in Western Europe to persuade both governments and public opinion to adopt a more independent line from the United States on security policy, and especially on the key issue of Star Wars. Well-placed diplomatic sources said here [in Moscow] yesterday that the information drive would include visits by Mr. Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, to strategic European capitals, the appointment of a new breed of communications-conscious Soviet ambassadors to senior European posts and the encouragement of more visits to Moscow by leading West European statesmen.

The European drive is understood to be one of the centrepieces of Soviet foreign policy for 1986. It involves the imminent appointment of new Soviet envoys to London, Bonn and Madrid, and visits by Mr. Gorbachev and his elegant wife Raisa before the year's end to Rome, Athens and possibly Bonn--although this arrangement has yet to be completed. According to both Soviet and Italian officials, there is a strong chance that the visit to Rome could include a historic meeting with the Pope....

Anti-Apartheid: New Campus Cause All across the United States, but especially on the two more liberal "bi-coastal" regions of the upper Atlantic seaboard and California, college students--backed by liberal teachers and deans (themselves the protesters and flag-burners of the 1960s)--have found a new cause: the demand that university investment funds be divested from firms doing business in South Africa. Often the protesters erect clapboard shacks on campus commons areas said to depict black squatter settlements such as the illegal "Crossroads" camp in South Africa. Efforts to dismantle the eyesores (sometimes called "Mandela shacks") by campus police often meet violent reactions.

Yes, the students have indeed discovered the campus crusade of the '80s. One such student is Amy Carter, 18-year-old daughter of the former president, an anti-apartheid activist and frequent arrestee at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island. On the West Coast, the issue is extremely volatile at (where else?) the University of California, Berkeley (or Berserkley, as some of its older frustrated alumni call it). Last week, Berkeley experienced its most violent confrontation since the anti-Vietnam war days of the 1960s as 120 campus and local police battled with anti-apartheid demonstrators. This latest campus cause celebre drew the attention of a Washington-based writer for the South African newspaper BUSINESS DAY, who wrote on March 7:

Up and down the liberal establishment's east coast (that is to say, from Pennsylvania to Maine--Maryland and points south don't qualify) the children of the well-to-do are taking time out...to erect symbolic shantytowns on their college lawns and otherwise bully their elders into divesting themselves of stock in firms that do business with SA. Indeed, there seems to be no corner of this region's academic groves that has not been decorated with a plastic and cardboard sculpture in the manner of Crossroads. Even the Massachusetts Institute of Technology has one--and a disappointing structure it is, too. You would have thought MIT could at least have made its offering geodesic.

The builders mean well, of course, and it must be tremendously morale-boosting to be able to spend a winter night camped out in the snow feeling solidarity for the victims of apartheid. The class of '86 may have no draft cards to burn, poor souls, but at least they will be able to tell their children they stood for something before heading off to Wall Street and the executive offices of Dow Chemical Corp.

Twenty years from now, it is unlikely that their children will feel any the less proud or envious of their parents when they consider the SA those parents helped create. After all, the present generation draws no link between its own parents' opposition to the Vietnam war and the totalitarian wasteland that is now Vietnam.... Such is the arrogance of the well-intentioned American liberal, especially in his larval stage. He can never see the damage he wreaks, albeit tangentially, because he is so utterly convinced of his own self-worth. He, in the words of that grotesquely smug, self-serving song, is the world....

In Berkeley and elsewhere, a good number of those arrested include non-student "professional protesters." In the 1982 book "Roots of Radicalism," by Stanley Rothman and S. Robert Lichter, the authors note that "reformers and radicals have historically depended upon youthful exuberance and idealism" to serve their own political ends. Young people have always been subject to such manipulation. Even Aristotle complained that the young "have exalted notions because they have not yet been humbled by life or learned its necessary limitations.... They would always rather do noble deeds than useful ones: their lives are regulated

more by moral feeling than by reasoning.... They love too much, hate too much, and the same with everything else. They think they know everything, [which] is why they overdo everything." (This quote is from page 3 of the Rothman-Lichter book.) As Benjamin Hart wrote in the April 11, 1986 NATIONAL REVIEW:

You see, the rioters and flag-burners of the Sixties are now the college deans and tenured faculty at America's major universities. They are bitter about the country's sharp move to the right, and are especially bitter about the increasing conservatism among the nation's young people.... The college establishment is a last enclave of Sixties-style leftism.... America's real battlefront [is] the college campus.

How true. Marxism and other forms of far-left radicalism is a growing force at American universities. There are now more than 500 courses on the philosophy of Marxism being offered. Marxist-oriented teachers form powerful factions in the idea-oriented disciplines such as the humanities, political and social sciences and economics. Marxist-style ideas are also behind the popularity of new activist courses such as ethnic, women and gay-rights studies. "About 250 ethnic studies programs exist on campuses," wrote David Brock in the December 12, 1985 WALL STREET JOURNAL, "and women's history, written mostly by neo-Marxist feminists, is an accepted fixture at many schools."

Speaking of causes and struggles, the people of New Zealand, reported the April 11 NATIONAL REVIEW, might soon be in for their share:

The latest addition to the roll call of sinner states is New Zealand--"a white racist state," according to the country's National Council of Churches, which even wants the country renamed "Aotearoa" [the older Maori name for the islands].... Maori "activists" are currently going to Cuba to study advanced liberation techniques.

This charge by New Zealand's liberal church hierarchy must come as a surprise to the country's Prime Minister David Lange, who has done his best to cultivate ties with the Third World, and especially to terminate all sporting links with South Africa.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau