PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

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Dear Ministers of Jesus Christ,

Preparation for the new season of The World Tomorrow continues at full pace. The new state-of-the-art cameras have arrived and are now installed, along with several other pieces of sorely needed television equipment. During a demonstration of some of the new equipment last week, Media Services Director Larry Omasta asked one of our technicians, Nick Leaver, to show me the operation of our new electronic paint system. This amazing system permits the operator to draw or paint full color paintings or graphics, ready for use on the "World Tomorrow," all by computer! What could take hours before can now be produced by a technician in only minutes. Projects that used to take days can be done in hours. This equipment will allow for great improvement and diversity in our graphics.

By the time you receive this issue of the "Pastor General's Report" the new set, which has been under construction for several weeks, will be in the process of installation in our Television Department. Perhaps I've mentioned before that I'm sure you will be inspired by the quality of visual versatility the new set will give us. We have decided to start off the new season with a program that will demonstrate a broader range of the set's capabilities than the previously planned subject of international terrorism would have. Remember to be praying for the "World Tomorrow"!

As I wrote in my "Personal" in the latest "Worldwide News," I was deeply impressed by my visit to the first session of our two United States summer camps. The unity and harmony of the staff members, each responding to the dynamic and right-on-track leadership of Dr. Kermit Nelson, is truly inspiring. Under Mr. Larry Salyer's overall guidance, Dr. Nelson has worked closely with each staff member to produce a group of individuals who really serve and encourage young people, teaching them that the fruits of God's way far excel the fruit of this world's ways. Each activity was well planned and carefully organized. I think you pastors are going to find some turned on youngsters coming home from these camps this summer. This is just one more example of the fact that when our ways please God, when we do things His way, He will bless us.

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On another subject: I hope each of you realize the value of the instruction in our various publications to our personal Christian growth. Often articles appear in "The Good News" or in "The Plain Truth" that are just the admonishment or correction we may personally need. Yet, do we

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miss those articles by not placing the priority we should on reading the publications? We do live in a busy society. Our precious time is often tugged this way and that. But these publications are one major avenue God has provided His people for learning of Him. Let's give our attention to finding time to read this precious information. Let's not allow ourselves to take the publications for granted. They are and should be a chief source of spiritual nourishment. Obviously, they can't be if we're not reading them. Along this same line, regularly encourage the brethren to read them also. Even refer to articles from the pulpit occasionally in ways that will encourage the brethren to read them. And in this connection, remind the brethren to pray for understanding, and do so yourself. Pray for God's help to read with an attitude of desiring to grow and change, and to learn more about His perfect way. We must never forget that we are here to learn, that one day we might teach in the Kingdom of God.

I'm sure most of you are well under way making your Feast plans. Though the speaking schedules are not yet complete, let's begin now prayerfully considering our subjects and material for sermons and sermonettes. Let's be sure the messages are timely and appropriate for the Feast, focusing upon an aspect of the purpose and meaning of our keeping it. The Festival messages should be some of the most inspiring and meaningful of the entire year, bringing into focus the ultimate purpose of our very existence and the grand future God has prepared for us!

Keep up the good work! Continue faithfully in prayer and don't neglect fasting. And finally this time, go give your wife a big hug; tell her how much you appreciate her support and help, and plan to take her out to dinner alone next week!

With love, in Christ's service,

Joseph W. Tkach

FROM CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

SPOKESMAN'S CLUB SUPPLIES FOR THE NEW YEAR; TRANSFERS; STAFF CHANGES; INTERNATIONAL NEWS--Italy, Australia, Germany

Spokesman's Club Supplies for the New Year Each year we receive a number of requests in late summer and early autumn for rush orders for Spokesman Club supplies to start the new club year. To save on the shipping costs of rush orders, please do your planning now and make your requests in plenty of time to allow normal handling of these orders.

Transfers As we head into the summer moves, I have just finished reviewing the instructions in the ministerial manual labeled "Pastor Transfer" and numbered "2.2.1." These contain vital principles for making smooth transitions; but frankly, it would be a good idea for all of you

full-time men to review this material as it relates to the present condition of your congregations!

Many times it's too late to set things in order prior to leaving an area if you have overlooked some ongoing trends or fallen into some bad habits in your pastoral approach. Certainly the record keeping necessary to provide the next minister with a good foundation must be done on a regular and systematic basis. If a new pastor were moved into your place today, how prepared would you be to hand over a good set of records to acquaint him with area needs and working relationships? Even with your head full of personal knowledge of your area you cannot be totally effective without good paperwork. Take this opportunity now to check up on yourself.

For those who are moving, I want to emphasize the need for putting into practice what is contained in these instructions. One of the best ways we can serve the whole church is to hold up each other's hands and work together as a closely knit team of ministers. The right way to deal with apparent problems in pastoral performance is addressed in the manual. Use it!

How about calling the previous pastor and discussing any question you might have instead of jumping to conclusions? Isn't that what you would want your successor to do? Are we men enough and converted enough to help each other in the way Christ has instructed? If not, how can we stand in the pulpit and preach that brethren should "bear one another's burden" (Gal. 6:2)? Or that they should restore one who is overtaken in a fault (verse 1)? Talking about someone's problems takes little effort, but talking to someone about his own problems takes courage, faith and humility. Let's make sure we are practicing what we preach. God will bless our genuine efforts to help each other become better shepherds of His flock.

Staff Changes With the transition in both the Pastor General's Office and Church Administration have come changes in the duties of various staff members. I thought it would be helpful to bring you up to date.

Most of you know by now that a number of people moved from Church Administration upstairs to assist Mr. Tkach. These are Michael Feazell, Ellen Escat, Michael Rasmussen and Lois Weber. Added to Church Administration are Brenda Yale, Lianne Johnston, Michael Rice, Ralph Lucia and Merry Knowlton (full-time). Current student employees are Richard Ritenbaugh and Philip Dick. Andre Zick is now an administrative assistant to both Mr. Horchak and me. To make your communication with us easier a list of staff members and their general areas of responsibility are included as an insert with this issue.

International News

From Italy The second quarter of this year has been an exciting and productive one. On May 4, 1986, Michael Caputo conducted this era's first Public Bible Lecture in Italy. Held in Rome, the lecture was entitled "What Biblical prophecy reveals about the future of Italy." Approximately 250 "Pura Verita" subscribers were in attendance; representing a commendable 5 percent turnout. Response was enthusiastic; 100 literature request cards were turned in and 11 people requested visits. Among those in the audience was a Jehovah's Witness pastor, a Catholic monk, several nuns and a Seventh-day Adventist elder.

Another new development in the month of May was the installation of a Bedford Computer system in the Italian office. This addition will help streamline the production of the "Pura Verita" magazine, making page make-up more efficient. Publishing Services employee Dick Grizzard will be operating the new machine and will act as an extension of the Publishing Department within the Italian office.

Circulation has remained just over 90,000 for the past few months. A recent direct mail shot and a READERS' DIGEST ad entitled "What Next for Europe?" has caused white mail figures to soar. In May we added 8,718 new subscribers to our file, representing a 64 percent increase in incoming mail over last year's figures for the same month.

In March an all-time record was set for visit requests, with 33 pouring in the one month. This year to date, we have received 97, which is a 31 percent increase over the same period last year.

This continuing barrage of visit requests has kept minister Michael Caputo extremely active. Says Mr. Caputo, "Life continues to be very hectic on the boot, and we will make it much more so as the day-time gets longer and rain, snow and fog get replaced by the balmy Italian spring." Areas visited this spring include Puglie, Lombardy, Sicily, Naples and the Italian Riviera. Concerning this last area Mr. Caputo commented, "The Riviera will most probably produce sufficient fruit to form a congregation in the not too distant future."

This burgeoning growth has created a great need for manpower in Italy. On May 14, Clifton Veal, Italian department employee, was named a Ministerial Trainee. Mr. Veal, his wife Connie and their three children will be arriving in Italy shortly before Pentecost. During the summer he will be enrolled in the University of Perugia where he will complete his study of the Italian language. After the Fall Feast, Mr. Veal will work with Mr. Caputo in Rome, offering some needed assistance to that busy area of God's Work.

(Submitted by Carn Catherwood, Regional Director)

From Australia We entered 1986 with an extremely tight budget with little available to promote the "Plain Truth" magazine, other than through the "World Tomorrow" telecast and our newsstand program. In spite of this, the "Plain Truth" circulation in Australia has remained steady throughout the year at around the 95,000 mark.

So far this year the "World Tomorrow" telecast has brought in 3,321 new subscribers--up 16.5 percent over 1985, and 7,832 new subscribers have responded to the newsstand program--a 40.2 percent increase over the same period last year.

Mr. Armstrong's foresight in offering the "Good News" magazine to "Plain Truth" readers who write in for literature or respond to a renewal letter is bearing much fruit in this country. Our "Good News" mailing list has risen steadily to 19,165 subscribers--a 32.9 percent increase over May, 1985.

By its sheer excellence and lack of competition from any other similar magazine, "Youth 86" continues to promote interest among young and old. "Youth 86" circulation in Australia has risen steadily and now totals 5,786 subscribers--a 19.7 percent increase year-to-date.

Mr. Tkach's semiannual letter offering the two booklets "What Is Faith?" and "The Bible--Superstition or Authority?" was mailed out this month and the first responses are beginning to come in. Mail for the month totaled 25,453 letters and cards, bringing our year-to-date increase for incoming mail to 16.6 percent. Outgoing mail for the year so far is just slightly above the 1985 total--up 0.6 percent.

Preparations are now well under way for our SEP camp in Malaysia to be held from July 28 to August 8. Twenty-eight campers will gather at our campsite on a member's rubber plantation just outside of Kuala Lumpur. A camper from Sri Lanka and one from India will also attend.

We have been blessed with a well-qualified activity staff of local members who are highly rated professionally in their field. These will be complimented by a number of experienced SEP staff from Australia and by Dusti Howell, an Ambassador College student serving on the Ambassador Foundation project at Nuwara Eliya in Sri Lanka.

We are pleased to report that all our members in the Solomon Islands are safe following the devastating cyclone that ravaged the country recently. One member suffered some damage to his home and will need a certain amount of help to repair his house. However, apart from this, it seems that God protected the members during the cyclone for which we are most grateful.

Honiara, the capital of the Solomons, was not as badly hit as the rest of the country and we are planning to proceed with the Feast of Tabernacles there this year.

(Submitted by Robert Morton, Regional Director)

From Germany After monitoring a pilot newsstand program for one year, we are now ready to implement newsstand distribution through the local church pastors here in the German-speaking area. To begin with, program coordinator Wade Fransson traveled to Hannover to help Mr. Paul Kieffer, pastor of the churches in Northern Germany, start distribution there. In one day, two excellent locations opened up in Hannover and Hildesheim (1/2 hour southwest of Hannover). This gave us a good foundation for Northern Germany with about 2,000 magazines distributed in May. Mr. Kieffer commented that the members were encouraged by the new newsstand outlets in their area. On my trip to Hannover I observed that the members were very excited. The newsstand program helps them feel more involved in the work and gives them an added impetus to pray for greater success. New subscribers are already being added through the new outlets.

Another interesting item from Northern Germany was also reported by Mr. Kieffer.

> A Church member's daughter had an interesting experience at school, where religion is taught. The girl took her Y.E.S. lesson to school, where she was to work on the lesson during the hour-long religious class. The lesson caught the attention of the teacher, who was so impressed by the Biblical content that she asked for 25 lessons for the entire class to use in discussing Noah and the ark!

At the end of May we were very happy to welcome the Ambassador College German Summer Program students here in Bonn. The students were accompanied by German teacher Tom Root, who came to conduct a two-week

Dick Scholz #40
325 Main St
White Plns, NY 10604

language course here at the office for the students before they leave on an Ambassador College sponsored European tour. After the tour they will spend five more weeks in the German-speaking area. Some will be at the homes of members and others will be helping in the office. I feel that it is very important to have Ambassador College trained personnel. There are 14 students participating in the program.

(Submitted by Frank Schnee, Regional Director)

--Larry Salyer, Director of Church Administration

FROM THE TREASURER'S OFFICE

June 1986

The first half of 1986 is now over, and the financial picture is good, but not as good as we had hoped. Our budget, as you may remember, was set at 7 percent this year. We are now right on budget for income at a 7 percent increase, and the expenses are just barely under that figure. We have had our ups and downs during the first half of the year, and for a time it did not appear that we would meet budget; but thankfully we have.

The month of June had an increase of 12.2 percent over last June, and the Pentecost offering, with an attendance of 4.5 percent more people, was 7.6 percent above last year. These good percentages helped to get us back to the budget figure.

The tithe of the Festival tithe is lower than expected this year. This is hard to understand, since other tithes and offerings are near budget.

The last half of the year is now receiving our attention. In looking at last year for comparison, we had a high month of July with 17.1 percent increase. Also, December last year was an unusually high month of 41.8 percent increase. This was primarily the result of the two urgent letters Mr. Armstrong sent to the members and co-workers that month. In order to "make budget" during the last half of this year, we will have to top these figures and the others of last year by an average of 7 percent!

--Leroy Neff, Treasurer

EDITORIAL SERVICES

AUTOBIOGRAPHY UPDATE; BOOKLET EXPANDED; "GOOD NEWS" UPDATE; "YOUTH 86" FEAST EDITION; TRANSLATED MANUSCRIPTS

Autobiography Update Production of the first volume of Mr. Armstrong's Autobiography is nearing completion. Hardback copies are to be distributed to members at the Feast worldwide this fall. A soft-back version is scheduled to be mailed to co-workers during the Feast. The Autobiography is 720 pages, including 64 pages of photographs. Four-color separations provide exact, realistic images of the photographs, letters, scripts, handbills and records portrayed. It will be of fine quality and, along with volume 2 (scheduled for printing next year), will serve as a long-lasting, comprehensive tribute to Mr. Armstrong.

Booklet Revised The booklet "Principles of Healthful Living" is being expanded. The articles "Is All Animal Flesh Good Food?", "What Is the

Rational Diet?", "Food and Food Additives" and "An Elusive Dimension of Health" are being added to the booklet. Overall, it will be a much more complete coverage of the subject of health.

"Good News" Update The August "Good News Personal" titled "Are You Dull of Hearing?" covers a topic all our members need to take note of. Some few may be thinking that "The Good News" is not for me anymore; that this material is for new readers; that "I've heard all this before." If so they are overlooking a crucial point in this "Personal."

We appreciate your encouraging the brethren to keep up with the Church's publications. Along with Church services and Bible studies and personal Bible study, the publications provide a solid part of the spiritual diet a growing member needs.

"Youth 86" Feast Edition The October-November "Youth 86" features an article by Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach about the importance of education. "Prepare Now to Be What You Want to Be!" should grab the readers' attention to this vital subject. An accompanying box "Thinking of Quitting School?" backs up Mr. Tkach's article with the personal experiences of Kim Wenzel, a preaching elder in Alberta, Canada.

An eight-page Feast supplement is included in the October-November issues sent to young people in the Church. "The Real Thing," by Bernard W. Schnippert, leads off the section, followed by the winner of the senior division of the YOU Essay contest.

Translated Manuscripts Occasionally you may receive article or booklet material that has been translated into another language. Many times people are so impressed with our publications that they want others of their nationality to be able to read the material as well. They will zealously spend hours of their time translating various booklets and articles. One of our regional offices not long ago received several articles translated into Polish and more than a dozen booklets translated into Czech.

If and when you are sent such material, remember Mr. Tkach's directive of several months back to forward any new material to Editorial Services. We will put it on file and if we are able to publish in that particular language, all that hard work of translating will not be lost.

--Dexter Faulkner, Editorial Services

FROM FACILITIES ADMINISTRATION

LAKE OF THE OZARKS FESTIVAL SITE SOLD; CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Lake of the Ozarks Festival Site Sold After serving the needs of the Church for 16 years, the Lake of the Ozarks Festival site was sold on June 20th. H & W Development Company, a firm based in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, purchased the site for the development of a shopping mall. The metal building will provide the umbrella structure for an enclosed mall according to a spokesman for the development firm.

The Ozarks site was developed as a Festival location in 1969, prior to the development of numerous convention centers around the United States. It has served the needs of the church, providing attendance capacity of up to

14,000 members during the '70's. The Festival office has since reduced the attendance at the site due to difficulties experienced in exiting the parking areas. In previous years, several hours were required to empty the parking lots after services.

The determination to sell the property was made last year since there are so many convention sites now available to the Church. There are several advantages achieved in the sale of this fixed Festival site: First, it affords greater flexibility to select other sites appropriate for Festival use. Secondly, better convention centers can be provided to eliminate problems associated with heat and cold within the metal building. Thirdly, the cost of operation can be greatly reduced as the Ozarks facility was only used for approximately eight days annually.

We are currently removing personal property and equipment from the Ozarks Festival site to allow the new owners possession by July 20th. However, the Administration building may be available as a rental for weekly Sabbath services.

Tulsa, Oklahoma will replace the Ozarks as a Festival site for 1986. We have received very favorable treatment from the housing and convention facilities in Tulsa. We appreciate your continued prayers not only for Tulsa, but for the conduct of affairs at all Festival sites.

We currently have 4,200 members scheduled to attend the new site. A few of the facilities listed in the memo to local pastors still have space available. Please let the members interested in attending the Tulsa Festival location know the availability so they can check with their Festival advisor as soon as possible.

Centennial Celebration The Headquarter's city of the Work, Pasadena, celebrated its centennial on June 19, 1986. This was the anniversary of the day of incorporation in 1886.

It was the Grand Ceremony and Evening Celebration of June 19th in which Ambassador College became involved. The staging and arranging of the many component parts, which had to be included as a part of the day, was a difficult task. The planning for these two occasions began almost a year ago. The assistance of the College, Auditorium and Foundation personnal was solicited due to the vast amount of experience in presenting cultural events. The Auditorium staff organized, produced and supervised the entire programming.

The Official Centennial Ceremony at noon--with an attendance in excess of 6,000--featured:

- Ross Justum and the Ambassador College Music Services band
- Special awards by Pasadena Mayor, John C. Crowley
- Centennial Tappers (24 volunteer tap dancers)
- Strategic plan for Pasadena until year 2000
- Presentation of time capsule
- Taking of the Centennial photo

The grand finale of live band music and tap dancing was climaxed with a spectacular balloon release of 28,000 balloons. This was the largest release ever in the city of Pasadena.

Between the afternoon and the evening cermonies the Mayor hosted a reception for local dignitaries and leading citizens. Mr. Joseph W. Tkach and other representatives from the Work attended this reception and met personally with the Mayor and City Directors.

The entire group of special guests assembled for this mayoral reception was escorted to a reserved seating area in front of City Hall for the evening celebration.

Once the guests were seated the show began. CBS local anchorman Jess Marlow was master of ceremonies for the evening. He and all the others working on the project are Pasadena citizens and donated their time.

This June 19th Evening Celebration was an appropriately dazzling musical evening. The attractions for the evening included:

- A 40-piece symphonic band, accompanied by an 800-voice adult choir (volunteers from Pasadena, including Church members and College students).
- Approximately 250 of Pasadena's fifth and sixth graders who recounted 100 years of history in song.
- A special State of California proclamation, presented by the district's state senator.

All of these were molded into a program of professional quality.

The Ambassador Auditorium production team produced a dazzling and moving ending. Special computerized search lights were used to shoot beams of colored light thousands of feet in the air as the whole expanse of the City Hall dome was changed from white to deep rich colors, which reflected the moods of the music. These effects accompanied the final number, a stirring rendition of Battle Hymn of the Republic with live orchestra and an 800-voice choir. This truly grand finale brought the assemblage to their feet in resounding applause.

The Mayor and other city officials continue to express their gratitude for the involvement of the College. "Without your assistance we could never have accomplished such a grand and professional event," commented the Mayor's secretary.

The involvement of the Work in projects such as this brings to mind Matthew 5:14, which says, "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid." Many in the world around us notice the works of God's Church. They see our support for government, which is through example and effort.

The thought of Matthew 5:14 continues in verse 16: "let your light shine before men, that they may see your good work, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

The Pasadena Centennial Celebration is another one of those events which has focused the attention of the community here in Pasadena on God's people, their way of life and His Work.

--Ellis La Ravia, Facilities Administration

FROM FLEET ADMINISTRATION

Accident Reporting Procedures Your Fleet Manual addresses the matter of what to do if you are involved in an auto accident. The systems established here in Pasadena have been created in order to relieve you of much of the burden, as well as to ensure that everything goes smoothly in paying the bills.

1. Collect as much information as possible at the scene of the accident. Refer to your claim kit for assistance.

2. Report the accident to the Insurance Department at (818) 304-4075. All accidents must be reported immediately, no matter how much or little damage there may be. The Insurance Department will assist you in repairs as well as with a rental car, if necessary.

3. Once you have called the Insurance Department, you will then need to report the accident to the nearest CIGNA representative. A directory is provided in your claim kit (available from Insurance Department if you don't have one).

Please be sure to follow these guidelines. If a problem comes up, call the Insurance Department. They need to know of any problems in order to correct them. Thank you for your cooperation.

--Dean May, Fleet Administration

MAIL PROCESSING UPDATE

SEMIANNUAL LIT RESPONSE; MEMBER WEEKEND CALLS;
BIBLE LECTURE LETTERS; "MYSTERY OF THE AGES"

Semiannual Lit Response The current semiannual letter has brought in 357,579 requests for the booklets offered. This represents an 11.1 percent letter response, which is one of the highest for a summer letter. Mr. Tkach's comments on faith stirred a great deal of interest in our readers. Also, the letter encouraged subscribers to watch the telecast, which inspired many to write and say they were viewing the program regularly.

We are expecting another 15,000 to 20,000 letters to come in during the remaining weeks of tabulation.

Member Weekend Calls We appreciate the members responding to our request about two months ago asking them to limit their WATS calls on weekends. Although we have noticed a drop in weekend member calls, a goodly number still phone during major ring-throughs. It would be helpful if you could remind your congregations not to call during this busy period when many new viewers are trying to get through.

Remember that Mr. Faulkner recently mentioned that the new TV brochures now being offered are compiled from older material. Any new publications are sent to the brethren automatically.

Should there be instances where members desire to receive the literature offered on TV, they may call during the week between 6 a.m. and 5 p.m. Pasadena time. Of course, members should feel free to call whenever an urgent need arises.

Bible Lecture Letters A record number of 141,000 people have been offered the opportunity to attend Bible lectures in the United States this year. The reason for this upswing is that more people are subscribing to the "Plain Truth" magazine and renewing their subscriptions. This makes them eligible to receive our letters announcing a lecture in their area.

The value of the lectures you give is aptly illustrated in the following comment:

> Thank you for sending me an invitation to the Bible lecture in my area three months ago. I am happy to say that I am now attending services with the Worldwide Church of God. Thank you for letting the world know there is a great first cause.
>
> (Newark, New Jersey)

"Mystery of the Ages" The comments we continue to receive about "Mystery of the Ages" show that it is still having a powerful impact on the lives of many. Readers consider this book the apex of Mr. Armstrong's writings. The brethren often say they have never seen God's plan unfold as clearly as in the pages of this book.

Many people who were never interested in religion before have been moved to ask for ministerial visits after reading it. As the following comments show, "Mystery of the Ages" continues to be an effective tool in spreading the Gospel:

> I was so happy and excited to receive "Mystery of the Ages." It was an answer to my prayer to God. I asked Him to forgive me and help me find the true belief. I was attending a Lutheran church but I couldn't accept their teachings on quite a few subjects, especially the trinity. Anyway, when I received your book, there was the answer to this false teaching! It makes me happy to know that Mr. Armstrong devoted his whole life to writing these books and magazines.
>
> Royal Oaks, Michigan

> I received Mr. Armstrong's last book. Whew! It can leave a man breathless. How did Mr. Armstrong come to have such extraordinary knowledge and understanding? But then, I do know, and there's no denying it. The will of our Creator was working through him.
>
> Honolulu, Hawaii

> I wish to thank you with my whole heart for "Mystery of the Ages." My mind was so hungry for these words, I could not stop reading it. Although I have heard all of this in bits and pieces over the last 22 years, I was never able to connect them together as Mr. Armstrong did in his book.
>
> Clinton, Illinois

> I just finished "Mystery of the Ages" and I am truly amazed! I found out things I never knew. And all were proved to me in the Bible. I just turned 58 and can't believe I've lived for all those years in darkness. I don't know why I subscribed to "The Plain Truth" and then got a chance to send for this book, but all I can say is, "Thank God!" Do you have a Church here in Hawaii? If so, where?
>
> Wahiawa, Hawaii

I've just completed reading "Mystery of the Ages" and I must say I was more than impressed. I am sincerely thankful that Mr. Armstrong clarified so many topics which I myself have been seeking. But those answers were shrouded by priests and laymen alike who told me, "God Himself is a mystery and forever will remain unexplained and undefined."

Never before have I been able to say where I fit in. My reason for writing is to find out whether there is a Worldwide Church of God in my vicinity. If so, could I inquire about the teachings of your Church?

Trenton, New Jersey

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

SOVIETS WOO EUROPE; WHY EUROPEANS DISTRUST THE U.S.;
THE EC'S GROWING POWER--WHEN WILL BRITAIN WAKE UP?

Soviet Overtures to Europe Intensify Links between Eastern and Western Europe are growing stronger. Much of this development is attributed to the efforts of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, who has made a diplomatic thaw toward Western Europe his number one foreign policy. Mr. Gorbachev is capitalizing on disagreements between Washington and the capitals of Western Europe over strategic defense (the SALT II treaty and SDI, or "Star Wars") and the fight against terrorism.

In military relations across the Iron Curtain, the Kremlin has taken the initiative in proposing bold and deep reductions in the number of Warsaw Pact and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) forces facing each other. In Budapest, Hungary, in June, the Soviets called for mutual cuts in land and tactical forces by 25 per cent in the early 1990s with further cuts later. Earlier, on a visit to East Germany, Mr. Gorbachev said that the proposed cuts in conventional armaments should cover a territory "stretching from the Atlantic to the Urals." In choosing such words, the Soviet leader was appealing to a sense of continental solidarity, employing a theme raised by the late General Charles de Gaulle of France.

Speaking in East Berlin, Mr. Gorbachev delivered a message directed primarily at West Germany: "We are coming to you," he said, "not with clenched fists, but outstretched hands."

In late June Mr. Gorbachev went to Warsaw. There he praised Communist party leader General Wojciech Jaruzelski for the way he has restored the preeminence of the party and government. But general European rather than Polish affairs were uppermost on his mind. Gorbachev said that Europe had been politically kidnaped by the United States. "In Greek mythology, there is the legend about the abduction of the goddess Europa," the Soviet leader said. "Now as a geographical concept, Europe remains in place, but the impression is created that the independent policy of some Western European countries has been abducted and taken across the ocean.... Under the pretext of defending security...the fate of the 600 million people on our continent...is being held for ransom."

Soviet efforts on the economic front are equally impressive. The Kremlin appears ready finally to normalize relations with the 12-member European Community, the world's largest trading bloc comprising 320 million people. Until now, Moscow has refused to deal with the EC as a unit, only its individual member states. But the EC, which expanded in January to include Spain and Portugal, is simply too formidable a power for the Kremlin to ignore any longer.

In turn, the European Commission, heading the EC, has expressed definite interest in closer bilateral relations between it, the Soviet Union and the individual members of Comecon, the Eastern European equivalent of the EC. In fact, the Commission has hammered out a trade proposal between the EC and Romania. A similar relationship between Brussels and another Comecon country is expected soon.

The rift between the U.S. and Western Europe, which Mr. Gorbachev (despite denials) seeks to exploit, continues to widen. Notice this report, by Hans Wilhelm Vahlefeld, written in and translated from the RHEINISCHER MERKUR/CHRIST UND WELT (Bonn), May 24, 1986:

> From B for (US ambassador in Bonn Richard) Burt via K for Kissinger to W for the WALL STREET JOURNAL American dissatisfaction and impatience with Europe are on the increase. When the Americans closed ranks round President Reagan after the US bombing of Libya anti-American protest marches were all they saw of Britain, Germany and Italy on their TV screens.... Slowly but surely Americans in all camps--politicians and intellectuals, the elite and the nameless--are losing patience. Western Europe is well on its way to becoming a millstone round America's neck.
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> Highly-paid media star Henry Kissinger brought this crisis of the Western alliance to Europe's attention (not for the first time, incidentally) in an essay in the 13 May WASHINGTON POST excerpted in London by THE OBSERVER two days earlier.... Dr. Kissinger says America ought to withdraw some of its forces stationed in Europe to serve as a strategic reserve based in the United States and capable of rapid deployment to any of the world's hot spots. America could then pursue its global responsibility undisturbed....
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> Dr. Kissinger... [further] advises Europeans to close ranks and set up a European defence community. US Ambassador in Bonn Richard Burt agrees, recalling the power imbalance between the United States and every Western European country.... To heal the wounds that have been inflicted on the alliance,...the Americans have resurrected the idea of a United States of Europe and its military twin, the European Defence Community. Otherwise, they argue, the gap between American power and European impotence would steadily widen and the foundations of the alliance would be unintentionally pulled from under those responsible....
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> The disappointment with Europeans felt by US intellectuals and politicians could be transformed into unbounded irritation if Europe were to morally equate Americans and Russians, implying that there is nothing to choose in ideology and methods between

> Washington and Moscow. This moral equidistance makes Americans hopping mad. Former US ambassador to the United Nations Jeane Kirkpatrick says that if freedom can no longer be distinguished from despotism then the erosion of the foundations of Western democratic civilisation is far advanced and the situation is really serious.

The back page editorial in the June 30 US NEWS & WORLD REPORT reflects the mood in the U.S. toward cutting commitments to Europe, forcing the allies to do more in their own defense:

> The U.S. is assuming too much of the military and financial burden for NATO.... Some $140 billion, or about half our military budget, goes to Europe,where we have our largest overseas conventional forces committed--340,000 troops out of a total of 540,000 overseas.... This would be justified were Europe the weak and ravaged continent it was in the 1940s and 1950s, facing a huge Red Army in the east. But Europe in 1986 is thriving and strong. It has nuclear weapons. It has a population larger than the Soviet Union's and a GNP one and a half times greater....
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> The disproportionality of the American effort in Europe is aggravated by the failure of Europeans to help elsewhere. The U.S. has had unilaterally to assume the burden of global defense against worldwide Soviet aggressiveness. Europeans even seek to veto the use of U.S. forces based in Europe for actions outside the NATO-treaty area--witness the European opposition to American retaliation against Libya. Europeans must do more to maximize their capabilities to defend their own territory....
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> Some 150,000 troops should be phased out of Europe over a five-to-10-year period and redeployed as an additional strategic reserve in the United States, able to move to the world's trouble spots. It is ludicrous for Secretary Shultz to be scraping about for $150 million to help the Philippines when we are spending 1,000 times that in Europe where the United States is least vulnerable.... It is time for the U.S. to bite the European bullet.

Paul Belien, who works on the foreign desk of the GAZET VAN ANTWERPEN (Antwerp, Belgium) wrote a special piece for the April 23 WALL STREET JOURNAL about Europe's "moral equivalence" which Americans find so frustrating. Using the analogy of Europe as a frustrated frog crouched between an ox (peaceful U.S.) and a bear, he attempted to explain the nature of Europe's frustrations with America:

> Many West Europeans today dislike the U.S.. It would be wrong to conclude, however, as Americans sometimes do, that they like the Russian bear. They do not. The problem with Western Europe today is that it dislikes America as much as the Soviet Union. The problem is one of equation, known as moral equivalence in U.S. intellectual circles. They are equated because of their proportions. The difference in their nature is merely circumstantial.... It explains the sympathy West Europeans have for little Nicaragua in America's backyard,

which in West European opinion is in the same position as poor Poland in Russia's yard. It explains West European disapproval of America's intervention in Grenada, which in West European eyes paralleled the Soviets' invasion of Afghanistan.

Still, the frog's frustration does not explain exactly why she remains blind to the fundamentally different nature between oxen and bears... Why then do West Europeans fail to recognize America as one of their kind--i.e., a pluralist democracy--and the Soviet Union as not--i.e., a communist totalitarian regime?

Like the U.S., Western Europe stands for parliamentary democracy and freedom of expression. Democracy and pluralism, however, represent only systems of the political and moral-cultural fields of life. There is a third important field of social life, economics.... Ordinary Americans have always felt economic liberty an indispensable guarantee of their democracy and pluralism. Most ordinary West Europeans do not.... In "welfare state" Europe, capitalism is a dirty word, as despicable as communism.... Economic freedom in Western Europe is severely restricted by a multitude of regulations and laws.... So Western Europe's economy stagnates while America's keeps growing. This causes jealousy, which reinforces the political frustration Western Europe already has towards its Atlantic partner.... Many West Europeans share anti-capitalist feelings with the Soviets. This anti-capitalist affinity obfuscates the far greater differences between pluralist democracies and communist totalitarianism.

There is also a third reason for West European frustration.... Large parts of the West European population consider Americans naive, simple, unsophisticated--a nation without any real culture or important history. Everything America has, has been borrowed from Europe. All it has added are things like jeans, Coca-Cola and McDonald's....

Such views are held not only by the ordinary West European...but also by many intellectuals, who...know little about America's history. They know nothing about some of the greatest political philosophers of all time--Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, Thomas Jefferson--whose visions shaped American democracy and greatly influenced European democracies. They know nothing about America's spiritual foundation, its deeply embedded trust in God.

Says one [intellectual], "We Europeans have been reduced to the role of the civilizing Greeks in the Roman Empire: teaching the Americans the proper temperature at which to drink their red wine." And another: "Europeans have a better understanding of the complexity of the present world difficulties than the United States."

The first quotation is from a conservative Italian author, the second from a former British Socialist prime minister. The list could be expanded endlessly. "Europe, Europe, Europe," the frog bellows louder and louder, as West European politicians and intellectuals try to prove that they are good Europeans by distancing themselves from America.

The analogy of the frog doesn't actually hold true, of course. The European Community...is increasingly a force to be reckoned with. The bureaucreatic institutions of the Community are together slowly but surely becoming the dominant regulatory force in Europe, gradually absorbing prerogatives once exercised by the EC's component sovereign states. The concept of Europe as a unit grows every year. Not everybody is happy about this development, especially the British, who are beginning to realize that their hallowed independence and sovereignty is being compromised as never before by, as they view it, the suffocating envelopment of EC bureaucracy. In an article in the June 23 TIMES of London, Paul Johnson, one of Britain's most incisive journalists, expressed dismay at the way the British government is accepting monumental changes in the EC constitution almost without a whimper. A political union is being created--why haven't the British been protesting, he wonders.

> The government has accepted, and Parliament is now enacting, legislative changes in our relations with the European Community which will affect the lives of every man, woman and child in this country. These changes are fundamental and irreversible. Yet the event is passing almost without comment.... When Britain was deciding in 1972 whether to join the EEC, at least there was a national debate.... Now we are taking a gigantic further step in our commitment to the Community,...and no one seems at all interested.
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> One reason is the sheer soporific effect of the leaden jargon with which the EEC conceals its doings.... The somnolence with which Parliament has treated the question has been compounded by the trance-inducing character of [Britain's Foreign Secretary] Sir Geoffrey Howe.... It would have been quite a different matter if Mrs. Thatcher had taken an interest in this business. When she picks up an issue, instantly the air begins to crackle with tension, hackles rise, men unsheath their adjectives. But she has no enthusiasm for the EEC, which she regards as a regrettable necessity, and has little but contempt for its doings. Uncharacteristically, she has allowed herself to be persuaded by Sir Geoffrey that the bill now going through Parliament is unavoidable, part of the tiresome process of EEC membership, just more of the same.
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> But it is not more of the same.... The title of the legislation, the European Communities (Amendment) Bill, is misleading. So, indeed, and perhaps deliberately, is the name of the international agreement to which it gives effect: "The Single European Act". It is not an act at all. It is, in effect, a completely new treaty, which ought properly to have been placed on a level of significance equivalent to that of the original Treaty of Rome. For what the act, and therefore also the bill, do is what successive British governments have repeatedly said they would not do: take Britain into a European political union. Indeed the preamble of the act says as much. It will transform relations among the EEC states "into a European union" and it will "invest this union with the necessary means of action". The select committee appointed by the House of Lords to scrutinise such proposals concluded bluntly and bleakly...: "The powers of the United Kingdom

Parliament will be weakened by the Single European Act...." Two leading experts...state as their opinion [that]...it is "a step towards establishing a European political union". In that case why was not the act called "The European Political Union Treaty"? And why was not the change presented to Parliament, and the public, as "an Act to Create a European Super-State"? The answer is that to do so would have been to tell the truth; and the EEC establishment, and our own government, know that the truth would be much more difficult for the public to swallow.

When Britain joined the EEC we had to accept that membership would involve some limitations to our national sovereignty. But the understanding was that...any further limitations would be carefully negotiated by us from a position of strength within the EEC. The symbol of this strength was to be our national veto. The essential point of the new treaty is to abolish the national veto over the whole range of social policy.... For the absolute veto, the new arrangement substitutes what is called "qualified majority voting". With the accession of Spain and Portugal, the number of votes adds up to 76. Britain, as a major member, has 10, no more than Ireland, Greece and Luxembourg together. Fifty-four votes constitute a qualified majority. So Britain alone cannot block a measure; it cannot do so even in conjunction with another major member, such as West Germany, with which it has common economic interests.

An obvious danger is that the members of the so-called "Mediterranean bloc" will constitute the nucleus of a "natural majority" in the EEC, which with the help of some UN-style haggling will become an actual one, and turn Britain into a "natural minority" member whose interests are consistently overruled.... The reference to the UN is not inapt, for there the maintenance of the power of veto in the Security Council has proved essential to the organization's continued existence. If the veto had gone, the position of Britain and the United States in that corrupt and evil Babel would long since have become intolerable...

The EEC is morally and in almost every other respect a cut above the UN. But it is now a big and far-flung body including countries, such as Greece, whose past--and present--behaviour should induce caution. A close political union with such a heterogeneous group, whose decisions can be imposed upon us, against our will...is something we should not accept without full national debate. Indeed, I believe we should not accept it at all.

When will the British wake up to heed Johnston's warnings and decide that enough is enough--and escape Europe's embrace before the final union is complete? Finally, we present the views of another perceptive journalist, William Pfaff, an American who writes from Paris for the LOS ANGELES TIMES SYNDICATE. Mr. Pfaff, in his June 23 column, draws attention to the latent power of Europe, slowly being tapped by its inch-by-inch unity movement.

The fact that Europeans have largely been content to allow Americans and Soviets to dominate world affairs, as well as those of Europe, should not obscure the material power of Europe.... Individually, as industrial powers, the West European states are in the second rank. Yet...if the European Community is considered all together, it makes up the most powerful economic and industrial combination on earth. Common American perceptions of Western Europe as a comparatively weak and declining force in world affairs are justified neither by the indices of productive power nor those of potential military strength. The military capacity of Western Europe, collectively, is equivalent to that of either of the superpowers--should the Europeans wish to make use of it.

A quiet Europe, a politically withdrawn Europe, has suited nearly everyone over the last 40 years--most of all the West Europeans themselves, who have greatly profited from the tranquil life by mkaing themselves rich and materially secure.... What happens in Europe decides the global balance of power. Europe is the pawn always capable of becoming a queen. Napoleon said of China that one should let it sleep, because the world would be sorry when it awakened. The place of which that really is true is contemporary Europe--occasionally shifting, murmuring, stirring in its postwar slumber, dreaming, perhaps.

--Gene Hogberg, News Bureau