

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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Dear Ministers of Jesus Christ,

Operations are again at full pace after a wonderfully inspiring and exciting Feast of Tabernacles! Reports from the Festival coordinators indicate that God blessed us with not only excellent weather, but richly encouraging messages and a stronger than ever sense of unity and oneness with Him and one another. Jesus Christ is indeed our elder brother, the firstborn of many brethren and the Captain of our salvation. The unity that is from above, made possible only by the Holy Spirit, is true unity. We are called sons of God even now, though we are as yet only begotten of God's Spirit--not yet fully born as Jesus has been.

The strengthening of our physical relationships during the Feast in the bond of spiritual love is possible because God's Church is a spiritual family, with each member growing in oneness with the Father and our Elder Brother through the Holy Spirit. Spiritual unity grows within the Body of Christ as each of us puts into practice the laws of God that govern relationships, following the perfect example that Jesus Himself set as a human being. The Feast provided an inspiring opportunity for all of us to be motivated to strive harder to personally overcome and to improve our relationships with others of the Body, as God's Word teaches us.

I am calling on you ministers, as I mentioned in the sermon on the Last Great Day, to stir up the brethren in your congregations to see the need to develop the bondship of godly love for one another. God is love. When we at last become fully one with God, we, too, will be love. It is in godly love, or agape, that we must be growing daily. And again, that love comes only from one source--God Himself, and to us through His Holy Spirit. God gives His Spirit to them that obey Him (Acts 5:32). As we draw closer to God, overcoming and growing in obedience to Him, we will also be drawing closer to one another. As we conduct our relationships with one another according to God's living laws that produce peace and harmony, we will as a natural consequence become more unified and closer knit as a spiritual family.

In Ephesians 4:1-6 the apostle Paul explains that unity is something that requires work. In verse three he says, "Endeavoring to keep the unity

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of the Spirit in the bond of peace." Endeavor can be described as a serious, determined effort. In verse two Paul gives the method. "With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love." That is how it is done. That is how we are to walk worthy of the vocation to which we are called. That is how we can keep the unity of the Spirit by the uniting bond of peace.

Jesus Christ is our example of lowliness and meekness. In I Peter 2:21-25 we read that there was no guile found in His mouth. When He was reviled He did not revile back. When he suffered He did not threaten. Instead He was patient, forgiving and merciful because He was love. He was one with His Father, who is also love. As Paul continued in Ephesians 4:4-6, "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."

The Feast provides a wonderful family environment in the true spiritual sense. It seems that God's people are inspired to forbear one another in love more fully during the eight days of spiritual instruction and fellowship we are able to have at the Feast. But when the Feast comes to an end we must make sure that same family environment continues in our local congregations. Jesus told us in Matthew 19:29, "And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life." This is a promise to be fulfilled in the future when Jesus returns. But it is certainly true in part even now. If we follow the admonition of Jesus and the apostles to love one another as He has loved us, we will have brothers, sisters, fathers and mothers in the faith also in this life. I certainly felt the impact of that scripture this year during the Feast here in Pasadena. I was able to spend hours each day just meeting and fellowshiping with God's people after services right here on the campus. I think I probably met most everyone attending here. The pure joy of being a part of the spiritual family God has called us to is immeasurably rewarding.

Teach the brethren in your local congregations these principles continually, while setting the example yourself. Work with their problems in patience, in godly lovingkindness. Avoid the "confrontation mentality" that some carnally minded people in positions of authority tend to display. As God teaches us, even by His own example, work with His flock as a loving, caring, gentle, faithful, spiritually strong and patient shepherd. Pray for wisdom, for patience, for gentleness, for understanding, for love and for the lead of the Holy Spirit. God's way is for all teaching, preaching, counseling and even correction to be done in love, carefully regarding the welfare and good of each individual involved.

God's ministers are never to be like the gentile authorities described by Jesus in Mark 10:42 who intimidate, back into corners or force confrontations with people. Rather to be helpers of their joy (II Corinthians 1:24), intreating them as fathers, mothers, brothers or sisters (I Timothy 5:1-2). There is a time to "rebuke with all authority" (Titus 2:15), even to "rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith" (Titus 1:13), or actually to have to remove one from the fellowship of the Church (Titus 3:10-11; I Corinthians 5:11-13; Romans 16:17-18). But even this must be done IN LOVE AND MEEKNESS, prayerfully, for the spiritual benefit and welfare of the individual. In short, God's ministers must be reflections (not yet perfect, but growing) of the love of God.

Please convey to the brethren a hearty "thank you" for the fall Holy Day offerings, which were about an 8 percent increase over last year. God's end-time Work of preaching the Gospel of His Kingdom and feeding His flock is made possible through the combined individual sacrifice of all God's firstfruits around the world, not only financially, but through heartfelt prayer and willingness to be led by His Holy Spirit.

I will be announcing in the next issue of "The Worldwide News" a new revitalized "Plain Truth" newsstand program. This all-new concept will make far more effective use of our newsstand copies and reach a great many more people than our current program is able to. It will require a diligent, coordinated effort by your newsstand personnel and will probably open up more opportunities for others to serve in that way. Basically, the program will work as follows: Instead of spreading our newsstand copies so thin resulting in having only 3,000 to 15,000 copies available monthly in most of our major cities, we will rotate our available copies from area to area. Each city will then be allotted perhaps 10 or 12 times the number of magazines they now handle (enough to blanket the area) for a prearranged period of time, probably four to six months. Then that area will have a "rest" with no newsstand program until its rotation comes up again. We expect this method to provide a very strong witness in an area by giving us maximum exposure for a limited time. Because the display would clearly state how long the "Plain Truth" will be available on the newsstand in that area, we expect not only that more people will read it, but that more will be motivated to subscribe.

As you can see, this program will require a great deal of local coordination from your newsstand personnel, and the results should prove to be well worth the effort. Of course I realize that God's people are, most anxious to serve in any way they are called upon. Those who work with the newsstands, some for many years, deserve our heartfelt thanks and gratitude. In fact, if it were not for their careful, diligent, faithful service I would not even want to attempt such a program as we are now undertaking. But I know that God's people can do it and the record proves it! This will give them a rest period as I said, which some may find disappointing. But frankly, when the rest period comes after the first of these new "blitz" programs in your area, I think most will appreciate a respite.

The Work goes on! Let's draw closer to God and one another as the day of Jesus Christ approaches.

With love, in Jesus' name,

Joseph W. Teach

P.S. I have just read Mr. Salyer's comments to you on pages 4-5 and I just want to say be sure to read them carefully. Men and wives, the obligation we have before God to all speak the same thing and to preserve unity God's way based on His law of love cannot be overemphasized.

FROM CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

FESTIVAL UPDATE; TAX REVIEW; 1986 TAX REFORM ACT;
BLESSING OF CHILDREN DATE; Q & A; PRAYER REQUESTS; RECENT ORDINATIONS;
INTERNATIONAL NEWS--Canada, Netherlands, Scandinavia

Festival Update As I write this we are only days removed from an absolutely wonderful Feast of Tabernacles. From all reports so far, this Feast can truly be called "the best Feast ever." It is obvious that God poured out a rich blessing upon His people both physically and spiritually. Several of the traveling speakers have stopped by to report that the members exemplified a spirit of unity and joy that was very refreshing. I heard stories of overwhelming responses to requests for brethren to serve on the various crews, and stories of brethren going out of their way to help each other, and stories of enthusiastic expressions of support for Mr. Tkach and those at headquarters. I think you get the point!

My family and I were very pleased and excited to be able to visit Eugene, Oregon, the birthplace of this era of God's Church. It was a moving experience to visit the Jeans School and Fisher farm where so many important events of Mr. Armstrong's early ministry occurred. The Feast site was very peaceful and friendly and the Feast was very relaxing and inspiring. We were all happy that Mrs. Schreiber was able to attend services every day. Returning to Pasadena on the fifth day, we were struck by the electricity in the air on campus. Hundreds of brethren who had transferred from all over the world were obviously very excited to be at God's headquarters on earth and to be privileged to see and hear Mr. Tkach in person. Mr. Tkach kept the entire Feast in Pasadena and spent several hours each day meeting and greeting the brethren on the campus. Most of them wanted to be photographed with Mr. Tkach and he very good-naturedly obliged them. It was a beautiful example of the kind of "family environment" which Mr. Tkach has emphasized to the whole Church. I'm sure these brethren have returned home and shared their experiences and enthusiasm for the Pasadena Feast site. Now we will have to prepare for a large increase in transfer requests and Mr. Tkach is considering expanding the attendance here.

As you know, there can be a general letdown among the members at this time of year. I hope you will capitalize on the excitement generated by the Feast and motivate the brethren to personal growth and perseverance in finishing the Work God has given us all to do. Surely the unity and family togetherness we experienced worldwide during the Feast will be a great asset in enduring the tough times ahead.

So, "preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine." It's a good time to analyze your own ministry. Ask yourself how fully you reflect the beliefs and practices of God's Church. Are you in the mainstream doctrinally and administratively? Or have you allowed yourself to lean to your own understanding? I have found since coming to Pasadena that just as we are of many and varied backgrounds and personalities, so we are occasionally varied in our ministerial perspective. Some of this is good and right and produces strength in God's Church. But when we stray too far from center we can break down the effectiveness of the ministry in building the

Church. We must "all speak the same thing." Christ says that He put the offices of the ministry into the Church "For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ." The only way we can bring the whole body into such unity is by being unified ourselves. Let's really be diligent to follow Mr. Tkach's fine example in promoting an openness and friendship between the brethren and the ministry that reflects the family atmosphere that God Himself desires in His Family. "How good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" (Ps. 133:1).

Tax Review As the Feast has now concluded, the end of the year rapidly approaches. It is time for you ministers in the United States to begin putting your tax records in order for the tax return you will need to file early next year. Below are three items you need to consider in preparing your 1986 return:

- **Housing Allowance** Be sure to review your housing allowance to be certain that what you have set aside is the appropriate amount. Any amount that has been set aside and not spent during the year must be declared as income. On the other hand, any amount spent but not previously set aside cannot now be deducted. If you find yourself in this situation, you may want to consider filing an updated Ministerial Housing Allowance form.
- **Monthly Expense Allotment** When your monthly allotment check is mailed, it is sent in advance of projected expenses. At the end of the year, the total of all allotment checks will be added to your W-2 form as income. Unless you can sufficiently justify to the IRS the business expenses that match the expense allotments you received, you will need to pay tax on the allotments.

The allotment check is to be used only for Church business expenses. If you have received more expense money than you actually spent, you should return the excess to the Church. If you find that your allotment has exceeded your expense by a large amount, you may need to consider reducing the allotment. If you want to do this, please include a note to that effect with your reimbursement check.

- **Second Tithe-Allotment** Any unused allotment should be returned. Please make separate checks for second-tithe funds and for the monthly allotment. Any reimbursement checks should be sent to Church Administration by December 16 in order for Accounting to have time to credit the amount to your W-2 statement. If checks are not received by December 16, your W-2 statement may not reflect the returned money, and you will have to pay taxes on that amount. (You will need to estimate your expense needs for the rest of the year to know how much to return for the monthly allotment.)

1986 Tax Reform Act The Tax Reform Act of 1986 will affect you as a minister as well as an individual taxpayer. As the facts become clearer, we will try to keep you informed of changes in those special areas that affect you as a minister.

Blessing of Children Date

The second Sabbath after the Feast is the traditional date for the blessing of children ceremony. Therefore, the blessing of children ceremony will be held on Sabbath, November 8, in all churches.

In some cases, a baby is born during or shortly after the Feast and the family is not able to attend services for the blessing of the children. When this occurs, it is certainly appropriate to bless the infant in the family's home. Children who are born after the Sabbath of November 8 can wait till the next year.

Question and Answer

Q. May children of nonmembers participate in the ceremony for the blessing of little children?

A. The desire of some members to have grandchildren, nephews, nieces and other children whose parents are not in the Church blessed is certainly understandable. However, the blessing of little children is only for the immediate families of Church members and prospective members. Members may on occasion bring children who are not their direct offspring only if they spend a significant amount of time with the children or if they are the guardians of those children.

Jesus blessed the children of those who were as yet unconverted, because the Holy Spirit had not yet been given. But He did this to set an example for us who are members and for prospective members.

God's Church today understands, for example, that the Passover must be restricted to baptized members. Similarly, the blessing of little children should be performed only for the children of members and those about to be baptized, together with the exception previously mentioned in the first paragraph. It would be contradictory to ask God to bless children dwelling in a household where no one is living by God's laws, and where God's Spirit is not working through one or both parents.

Prayer Requests

Mrs. Dennis Van Deventer died peacefully in her husband's arms on Wednesday evening, October 8. Sylvia had lapsed into a coma several days previously, rousing only briefly on the Day of Trumpets. Her thoughts even then were on the welfare of Dennis and their daughter, Ginger. A memorial service on campus was conducted by Mr. Robin Webber. A brief graveside service was held in Houston, Texas, October 13. The Van

Deventer family wishes to thank all of you for the tremendous outpouring of love and concern.

Mr. Roy Holladay, pastor of the Bethlehem and Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, churches, requests your prayers on behalf of his wife Norma. She is experiencing extreme discomfort from a fibroid tumor.

Mr. Jim Reyer and his wife Alice express their deep appreciation for all of the prayers in their behalf. All the letters, cards and flowers sent by the brethren have been extremely encouraging. Mrs. Reyer's condition has not improved but her spirits have been bolstered by the concern of the Church brethren.

Mr. Leonard Schreiber and his wife Inez also wish to express their gratitude for the prayers in their behalf. Mrs. Schreiber was able to attend the Feast and suffered no pain though her condition has not improved.

Mr. Lowell Foster, one of our longtime ministers in the Chicago area, is suffering from cancer. Please pray for his healing and relief from the pain. His condition is quite serious.

Recent Ordinations

The following individuals were ordained as local church elders: Gerard Evers from the Zwolle, Netherlands, congregation on September 20; Keith Hartrick from the Brighton, England, congregation and Terencio Naranjo from the Tagbilaran, Philippine, congregation on September 27 and David Morgan from the West Bend, Wisconsin, congregation on October 11.

Ordained on Trumpets, October 4, as local church elders were Walter Baudoin of the Picayune, Mississippi, congregation; Lane Boyd of the New Orleans, Louisiana, congregation; Clinton Brantley of the Jackson, Mississippi, congregation; John Campbell of the Los Angeles, California, congregation; Terry David of the Seattle, Washington, congregation; Mark Graham of the Cleveland, Ohio, congregation; Maurice Ledet also of the New Orleans, Louisiana, congregation; Josue Ogdod of the Liloan, Philippine, congregation; Alan Pachinger of the Cleveland, Ohio, congregation; David Roscoe of the Seattle, Washington, congregation; Arthur Thomas of the Kalamazoo, Michigan, congregation and Mark Van Pelt from the Union, New Jersey, congregation

Ordained as a local elder was Johannes Wilmes from the De Bilt, Netherlands, congregation on September 20. On Trumpets the following individuals were also ordained as local elders: Mark Michelson of the Boise, Idaho, congregation; Allen Olson from the Birmingham, Alabama, congregation.

The following individuals were ordained to the rank of preaching elder: Benjamin Faulkner, Jr. of the Hammond and Michigan City, Illinois, congregations and Douglas Peitz of the Lenoir, North Carolina, congregation on Trumpets, October 4, and Eric Warren of the Moncton, New Brunswick, congregation on September 27.

International News

From Canada The highlight of the month of September was the visit of Mr. Tkach and party to the Vancouver office. This was his first time to visit British Columbia and he was enthusiastically greeted both by the office staff and by the west coast churches.

With the new telecasts starting in September, the WATS responses continue to increase. A new record was set with David Hulme's program "Will Russia Attack the U.S.?" We received 1,294 responses, 60.2 percent of which were people calling in for the first time. We were also over the 1,000 mark with David Albert's program on child rearing. With winter drawing on we are confidently expecting our responses to exceed 1,000 most weeks. The new set has been enthusiastically received by the viewers and many positive comments have been made on how professionally the telecast comes over.

Our latest direct-mail campaign got under way and by September 30 we had already received about 20,000 responses, roughly half of what we expect by the end of the campaign. With the added work load, it looks as if we will have to add one more staff member.

Incoming mail was 36,830, or 9 percent increase over 1985, bringing the year to date to 7.3 percent. Outgoing mail was 161,880, a 70.9 percent increase over last year. This gives us a total increase of 26.7 percent for the year to date.

Pastors report an increasing number of cancer cases among members. On September 27 the 5-year-old son of a Victoria church member died after a long illness. It seems that sickness is increasing in the Church, which, along with serious economic problems affecting members, is having a sobering effect. Farmers in the prairie areas have been affected by late rains that prevented harvesting being completed before the Feast. After a bumper crop in most areas some members are predicting a loss due to rot and poor commodity prices. However, these same members remain positive.

(Submitted by Colin Adair, Regional Director)

From the Netherlands The highlight of the month of September was the ordination of two local church elders and the beginning of the "World Tomorrow" program on Sky Channel.

On Sabbath, September 20, Mr. Johan Wilms, business manager of the Dutch language office in Nieuwegein, was ordained a local church elder by regional director Bram de Bree in the De Bilt church. Mr. Wilms has been a full-time employee in the Work since the Dutch-language issue of the "Plain Truth" started in 1968.

On the same day Mr. de Bree ordained Mr. Gerard Evers a local church elder in the Zwolle congregation.

The Dutch-language area now has one full-time minister and three local church elders.

On September 21 the "World Tomorrow" T.V. program entered the Dutch homes via Sky Channel. Sky Channel is an English commercial T.V. station beaming at England and Europe and can be received via cable T.V. The Netherlands is at this particular moment the most densely cabled country in Europe; 43 percent of the Dutch T.V. viewers are able to receive Sky Channel. Although according to Dutch law no Dutch-language or Dutch products may be used or advertised on Sky Channel the response to the offered English-language "Plain Truth" is promising. The Dutch brethren commented very favorably on the informative first message of Mr. David Hulme.

Church attendance and membership increased 10 percent compared to September 1985.

(Submitted by Bram de Bree, Regional Director)

From Scandinavia A Norwegian newspaper, ARBEIDERBLADET ("Labor Paper"), recently quoted from the 'News Overview' section of "Den Enkle Sannhet" (The Plain Truth).

In the newspaper's column entitled "Meninger om mangt" ("Opinions on Much"), the writer quoted extensively from the July/August "Plain Truth" report on drug-taking entitled "High on the Job." The newspaper writer summed up by saying that "the misuse of drugs...is one of the reasons the U.S. is beginning to lose its leadership in the world of industry. Yes, isn't this frightening?"

Last autumn's run of advertising in several Nordic newspapers successfully added 15,000 new "Plain Truth" subscribers to our files. We hope to repeat this success by again advertising in five major newspapers during November and December. Full-color, loose inserts will be appearing in the following publications: BERGENS TIDENDE (Norway); BERLINGSKI SONDAG and JYLLANDS POSTEN (Denmark); SVENSKA DAGBLADET and GOTEBORGS POSTEN (Sweden). This represents a total print run of 1.2 million inserts.

The level of "Good News" subscribers continues to climb dramatically. There are 2,854 copies of the October/November issue being mailed out to Scandinavia. This is a 27 percent increase over the preceding month. And combined membership among the Scandinavian churches now totals 77.

(Submitted by Frank Brown, Regional Director)

--Larry Salyer, Church Administration

EDITORIAL SERVICES

"WORLDWIDE NEWS" FESTIVAL REPORTS; MARCH "PLAIN TRUTH" PLANNING SECTION; NEW TV BROCHURE; "YOUTH 86" LETTERS

"Worldwide News" Festival Reports Reports are coming in from Feast sites around the world. We really appreciate you Feast coordinators getting the reports to us on time. Our goal is to cover each and every Feast site in the first issue after the Feast, so if any of you haven't sent in your report yet, please do so immediately. It might still make that edition.

March "Plain Truth" Planning Session In the March "Plain Truth," we plan a far-reaching and thorough discussion of economy--from an international, domestic and personal point of view. Most readers' minds would be on their pocketbooks at that time of year. Subjects covered include the worldwide problem of debt, national and personal; how defense spending destroys economies; the international problem of burdensome taxes; and the effect of drug addiction on nations--both users and providers. Paul Kroll's overview article, "The Many Faces of Economics," will tie all these subjects together. We plan also to bring in God's system of economics in a sensible and logical way.

New TV Brochure A timely new television brochure is now being produced. "There's a Hidden Enemy in Your Home!" is a piece of literature almost anyone can gain from. Articles included are the title article from the March, 1986, "Good News"; "It's About Time!" from the January, 1986, "Plain Truth"; "Best Strategy for Beating Stress" from the April, 1985, "Plain Truth"; "You Can Break that Bad habit!" from the February, 1983, "Plain Truth"; "The Way that Assures Peace of Mind" from the May, 1983, "Plain Truth"; "Let God Fight Your Battles!" from the March, 1985, "Good News"; and for married couples, "Words that Hurt, Words that Help" from the March, 1986, "Plain Truth"; and for teens, "Are You Sure Everybody's Doing It?" from the April, 1986, "Plain Truth." Please remember that brethren will not automatically receive these new brochures made up for television. If they should want to request them, they should wait until after the brochures are announced on the telecast and printed and ready for distribution. Please ask members to call during the week or at times other than when the telecast is airing.

"Youth 86" Letters Obviously, some of you are sharing the letters we've been including in this report with the brethren, because we got this response from a 12-year-old Church youth: "A reader of 'Youth 86' suggested in the PGR that it would be nice if all the young people would save aluminum can money and give it to the Church. We heard this just the day after we cashed ours in, so we decided to send it in as an offering."

A young Michigan reader from an atheistic background writes: "I would like to tell you how much I have learned from 'Youth 86,' 'The Plain Truth' and other literature I have been receiving for the past five years. I learned a lot about God and the world in general from you.

"I am now 16 and have finally made up my mind to lead life following God rather than men. Despite coming from an atheistic family and having been an atheist myself, after these five years of struggling with the truth, I have decided to go God's way.

"It is hard because the people I associate most with (future scientists) leave God out of everything. Planning to become a theoretical physicist myself, I will need God's help to stay with Him. Thank you for all you have done. Enclosed is \$20 for you to use for God's work."

--Dexter Faulkner, Editorial Services

MAIL PROCESSING UPDATE

POST-FEAST WORKLOAD; SAVINGS: PT GOING SECOND CLASS;
INTERNATIONAL AIRMAIL SERVICE; RECORD IN NAMES ADDED TO FILE;
THOUSANDS SERVE WATS LINES; THIRD TITHE BLESSINGS

Post-Feast Workload Although most of our Mail Processing operations were shut down during the Feast of Tabernacles, the mail and phone calls continued to pour in. This year's post-Feast backlog is comprised of over 600,000 letters, Holy Day offering envelopes and WATS cards. Many employees will work overtime and on Sundays for the next three or four weeks to handle this enormous amount of mail as quickly as possible. We are making every effort to eliminate the inventory on hand in preparation for the upcoming response to Mr. Tkach's fall semiannual letter.

Savings: PT Going Second Class In March 1985, Publishing began mailing "The Plain Truth" at second class postage rates instead of the nonprofit bulk third class rate. This was done because the U.S. Postal Service changed its rates, making second class mail a less expensive method of sending out "The Plain Truth."

In addition, we have also gained other unexpected savings from our current use of second class. Formerly, when a person moved and did not send us his new address immediately, the post office returned his "Plain Truth" to us, charging 30 cents return postage for every magazine. We also had to spend time and money in sending another PT to the individual's new address. Since the post office now forwards second class mail for 60 days, fewer PTs are returned to us.

Since March 1985, we have saved \$60,000 in postage returns and 2,000 man-hours in processing returned magazines. Also 200,000 "Plain Truths" reached subscribers sooner.

International Airmail Service The U.S. Postal Service now offers a special airmail service to foreign countries at a lower rate than regular airmail. The new service--called International Priority Airmail (IPA)--allows us to send bulk mail overseas for \$6.80 per pound. Previously we were charged a per-ounce rate which resulted in a much higher total mailing cost.

The postage savings from the August co-worker/member letter, mailed to Caribbean countries, is one example of how IPA benefits us. A total of 2,167 letters was sent at a cost of \$482. If we had sent the letters by regular airmail, as in the past, the mailing fees would have been over \$1,600. Thus, we achieved a savings of over 70 percent by using the new service.

The new service is not only less costly but also faster than regular airmail. Delivery to the Caribbean countries averages seven days for International Priority Mail, as compared to 12 days for regular airmail service.

Many other international mailings, such as "Youth 86," Spanish Department lecture announcements, and sermon tapes to foreign areas, also qualify for this new rate.

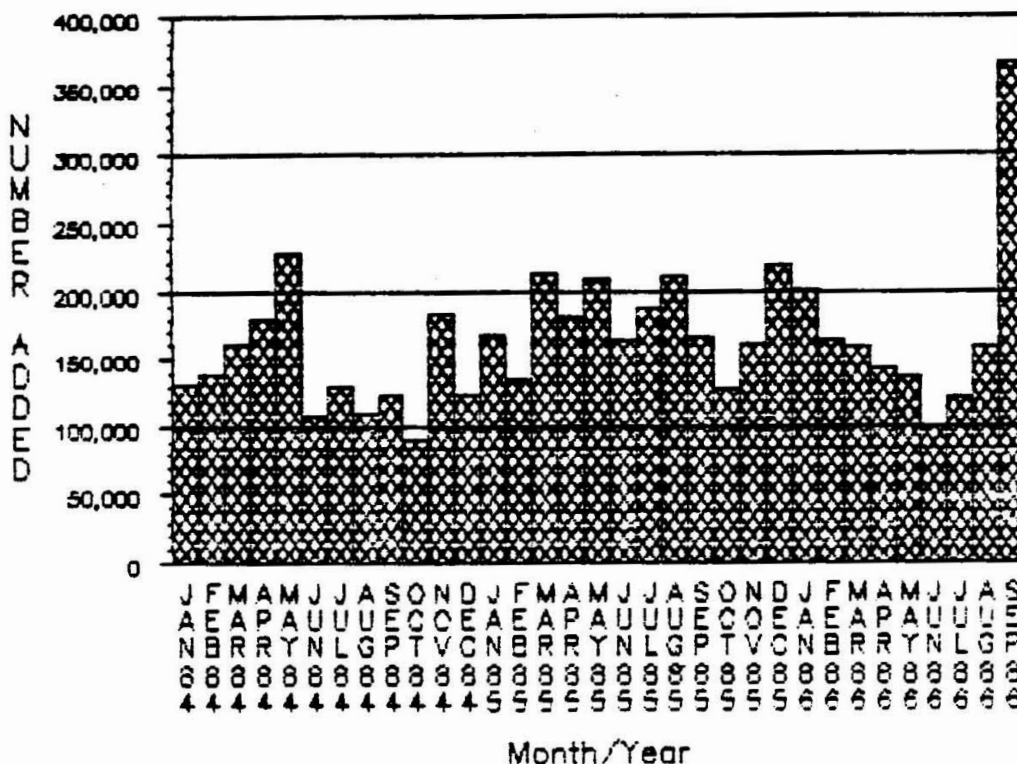
Record in Names Added to File In the month of September a record number of 367,583 names was added to the Work's mailing list--an average of 17,500 per working day.

The major reason for this increase is the excellent response from our direct mail offer of "The Plain Truth." This summer, Publishing Services sent out 3.5 million letters offering "The Plain Truth" to people on purchased mailing lists and to PT readers who had let their subscriptions expire in 1985.

The previous monthly record for increase of people on our mailing list was 227,636 in May of 1984. An unusually large number of PT gift subscription cards were processed that month.

The following graph compares the number of individuals added for every month since January 1984:

**NEW NAMES ADDED TO U.S. MAILING LIST
for Each Month: January 1984 - September 1986**



Thousands Serve WATS Lines From the time Mr. and Mrs. Herbert W. Armstrong began as pioneers in this era of God's Work, local members have always voluntarily assisted whenever needed.

Today, with the Work's rapid growth, volunteers continue to play a vital role in helping us to keep pace in Mail Processing. The WATS lines, presently handling an annual response rate increase of 100 percent, have been served by the greatest number of volunteers in the following ways:

- Sabbath/Holy Day Volunteers: More than 2,000 brethren presently serve the WATS lines on the Sabbath and Holy Day crews. Volunteer Church members have answered over 700,000 calls.
- WATS In-Home Program: Nearly 3,000 volunteers assist in the WATS In-Home Program. So far, 170,000 calls have been taken by this group.
- Ambassador College Students: The AC student body is scheduled throughout the year on a rotating basis to come in on Sabbath mornings and take calls.
- Ministers on Refreshing Program: Scores of ministers (and their wives) on the Ministerial Refreshing Program answer calls each year.

Third Tithe Blessings Many members have just completed their third tithe year at the Feast of Tabernacles. We have received many letters from them telling us of God's blessings. Following are some of their inspiring accounts:

This is our third tithe year and I wanted to share some of the blessings God has given us. Going into this year, my husband and I had a lot of financial problems. But starting this June, God provided my husband with a better paying job than he has ever had. In August, God also gave me a job as a teacher's aide in the school our children attend. Then the secretary of the school asked if we would be interested in moving onto a 100-acre farm with a beautiful home--rent free!! All that was required of us would be to feed a few cattle once a day and mow the lawn. As you can see, this third tithe year has actually been the most prosperous year of our life!

Georgia

Just a little note to say I'm a single parent making a moderate income. Until this past year I was on third tithe assistance. I went off assistance last year, and my own third tithe year began. This year has been an amazing and unexplainable experience. There is no way to figure out what has happened, but I now have half again as much money and material blessings as I had this time last year when I was on assistance myself!

Texas

It has been the most wonderful year ever--my third tithing year. Not only did my income increase with every passing month, but I was able to go back to work after many years of being too arthritic to hold a job! God gives us so much more than we could ever give back, and in a million more ways than we could ever imagine.

Florida

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

"DESIGNER" WEAPONS; SOUTH AFRICA; GIBRALTAR

Engineering New Weapons Plagues Anyone who thinks that nuclear weapons represent the ultimate in man's ability to design and develop hideous weapons had better think twice. The relatively new field of genetic engineering, it turns out, has great potential application in the area of futuristic weapons. The prospects of gene-splicing germ agents is reviving interest in the once-moribund field of chemical and biological weapons (CBW). Here are excerpts of a report which moved across our REUTER news wire on Sept. 28:

Recent scientific breakthroughs have greatly increased the danger that biological weapons will be used for mass killing in future wars, according to Pentagon officials. Until recently, the officials say, Washington had deemed the risk of biological warfare to be small because germ weapons--such as laboratory-grown anthrax, yellow fever or bubonic plague--were hard to control and could backfire, infecting the attacker's own troops and population. But according to these officials recent advances in genetic engineering, or gene-splicing, have completely altered the picture. They have revolutionized Pentagon thinking on biological warfare and prompted a crash U.S. research program which Washington insists is a defensive response to Soviet progress on germ weapons.

Genetic engineering, in which scientists tinker with the genes of living organisms and create new life forms, has led to medical breakthroughs such as mass-produced synthetic insulin for diabetics. But defense officials say the pioneering technique has also opened the way for effective new germ weapons. "It is now possible to synthesize BW (biological warfare) agents tailored to military specifications," Deputy Assistant Defense Secretary Douglas Feith said in a recently declassified report. "The technology that makes possible so-called designer drugs also makes possible designer BW." Military scientists now might develop new diseases which could quickly incapacitate or kill enemy soldiers, at the same time immunizing their country's own troops against the virus, the Pentagon officials say....

Potential genetic weapons included cloned variants of deadly substances from snake venom to rare tropical diseases, as well as entirely new lab-built viruses and bacteria. So diseases could be created with symptoms virtually identical to those of natural illnesses, the report said. The victim country would be hard-pressed to determine whether it was under biological warfare attack or a victim of a natural epidemic, making retaliation less likely and pre-emptive attack more so....

Biological warfare weapons raise other frightening prospects, such as creation of bacteria to attack specific human organs--for instance, the eyes of enemy soldiers--or to kill members of one race while sparing those of another, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). Genetically-engineered diseases could be adapted to climatic conditions, Feith said. A virus causing dehydration could devastate troops fighting in a desert....

U.S. strategists long had discounted germ agents in the superpower confrontation because nuclear missiles were a much more effective strategic weapon. But new gene-spliced biological warfare agents are likely to be controllable and effective enough for use even in special operations and pitched battles, Feith said. His report accused Moscow of breaching the 1972 Biological Weapons Convention with a major biological warfare program, using genetic engineering and other methods. He said Moscow was working on new biological weapons at seven sites in the Soviet Union, including a virtual city where many scientists lived and worked under heavy guard....

Pentagon research on genetic engineering has jumped 800 percent from \$5 million in 1981 to \$40 million this year. The Pentagon says the work--including projects for cloning malaria, snake venom, anthrax, the deadly and rare Rift Valley fever--is strictly for defensive purposes.... [But] Feith conceded in his report that a defense would be extremely difficult. "(BW) favors offense over defense.... No field equipment has yet been developed that can detect BW agents, let alone identify them; there are no known antidotes now available against many possible agents; and it is not certain that our troops' protective gear would be effective," he said.... "This is...a problem with no apparent solution," he concluded.

South Africa: Senate Votes its "Good Conscience" The United States Senate, rejecting a presidential veto, voted stiff economic sanctions against South Africa into law Oct. 2. It catapulted the U.S. into the forefront of a global confrontation against Pretoria. Senators voted 78-21, well over the two-thirds needed to override the veto and end a yearlong battle between the White House and Congress over U.S. policy toward South Africa. The House voted to override the veto earlier the same week. The sanctions, among the toughest worldwide, prohibit all new U.S. investment in South Africa and add uranium, coal, textiles and agricultural products to the existing list of embargoed trade commodities. Effective in 90 days, they would also cancel landing rights for South African Airways.

The size of the vote, especially from Republican senators bolting against their own President, indicated the issue had become enmeshed in U.S. domestic policies. In fact, the man who led the Republican backlash, Senator Richard Lugar, admitted it had become a "domestic civil rights issue." No Republican Senator, if he were running for office in November, was about to be tagged with a "racist" label by an opportunistic challenger. South Africa's Foreign Minister Roelof "Pik" Botha, who made several phone calls on the eve of the Senate vote to try to persuade a change, reluctantly admitted: "It is clear the decision was taken regardless of our reform program and no reason or argument could stop this emotional wave.... It was an emotion-laden, steamroller current," he said. "This became an internal civil rights issue in the United States."

Mr. Botha was condemned by some Senators who charged he was "interfering" with U.S. politics. (What has the U.S. Congress been doing for the past year?) Mr. Lugar said Botha's action was "an affront to the decency of the American people." Legislators were irritated when the Foreign Minister said South Africa would stop buying U.S. grain if South Africa's farm exports were blocked. ("Foreign bribery" and "intimidation," they charged.)

Time and time again, key Senators claimed that the U.S. had to take a "moral stand" and "get on the right side of history." Kansas Senator Nancy Kassenbaum said, "We have to show whose side we're on." Critics charged these senators, however, with pursuing "feel good" policies. The attempt to force America's system values on others was evident in many comments. Senator Ernest Hollings of South Carolina said in defense of the Senate's action: "This is not an intrusion into South African affairs. This is an affirmation of the American dream: 'We declare these truths to be self-evident, all men are created equal.'"

Critics charged however that the action only gave support to revolutionaries inside South Africa and pulled the rug out from under moderate black forces. It widens and enflames racial tensions. "The thrust of this legislation," said Senator Jesse Helms of North Carolina, "is to bring about violent, revolutionary change, and after that, tyranny." Of course, most of the Senators don't think that will happen, or hope such a result can be avoided. The Sept. 30 editorial in THE WALL STREET JOURNAL commented on the tragic track record of recent U.S. interventionism, as well as looking at the bill's tricky protectionist twist:

The final bill is...heavily freighted with hypocrisy. With its long list of South African goods that the U.S. will not import, it is a protectionist bill with grandiose moral pretensions. The prime benefits will go to American producers who compete with South African products. The primary victims will be South African workers, many of them black....

Sanction advocates claim the U.S. must bring real muscle to bear. Look at what we accomplished when we intervened in the Philippines, they say. South Africa, however, is not the Philippines. In the Philippines a democratic opposition was waiting in the wings. In South Africa, with its fragmented multiracial and multiethnic communities, potential successors

are not so easy to identify. The most purposeful opposition, the African National Congress, in no way could be described as having democracy as one of its goals. In short, South Africa looks less like the Philippines than like some of those places where the use of U.S. muscle against existing friendly regimes has contributed to an ultimate political collapse, with enormous costs in human lives. South Vietnam and Iran come to mind.

One result of the Senate's action will be a great increase in hypocritical behavior around the world as companies and countries trade with South Africa while denying they do so. The September 1 BUSINESS WEEK reported in an article entitled "Can Pretoria Evade Sanctions? Let Us Count the Ways...":

If the West slaps harsh sanctions on South Africa, trade experts say, the flow of gold to market will continue unabated. "There's no way," says Keith Smith, managing director of London gold trader Mocatta & Goldsmid Ltd., "to find out whose gold it is." The same anonymous character marks the trade in a lot of other things flowing into and out of South Africa. South African shoppers can easily find wine glasses from Czechoslovakia and shotguns from the Soviet Union--countries with a flat ban on any South Africa trade. Indeed, Johannesburg computer salesman Gavin Ternent calls a personal computer on his shelves a "sanctions-buster." It comes from Taiwan. But should the Taiwanese impose sanctions against South Africa, Ternent says, local manufacturers have been assured of obtaining licenses to make the machines locally....

The techniques of evasion are already widespread and common. Country-of-origin labels on textile exports are frequently altered. South African citrus fruits are packed in crates marked "Product of Mozambique." Even steel's origins are obscured by routing exports through Singapore or other countries. And more sanctions will only inspire new evasive tactics. Says a South African business lobbyist in London: "It will be a world of middlemen, front companies, and bills of lading with differing destinations."... Exporters assume that European middlemen and traders in Israel, Taiwan, and South Korea will keep goods flowing to and from South Africa....

To combat bans on landing rights overseas, state-owned South African Airways is negotiating to repaint its jetliners and lease them to Swaziland and other neighbors dependent on Pretoria. Indeed, a number of small countries, under less international scrutiny than the major Western nations, are well-positioned to benefit from sanctions. Observers say such East bloc countries as Bulgaria and Rumania are even offering to act as go-betweens. "There are countries that are rubbing their hands with glee," says a British executive. "The sophisticated stands of the industrialized world are going to be made a mockery of."

The South African business community is resigned to and preparing for increased sanctions pressure. The outside world, they realize, will never accept the changes that both the government and the business community have made in recent years. "Each time we try to score, they move the goalposts," claimed one frustrated Johannesburg businessman. The world appears to be behind the African National Congress no matter what methods, such as "necklaces" and landmines, it uses to try to force its way into power.

In the short run, it could be not South Africa but the United States that is hurt by the sanctions process. Big U.S. firms such as General Motors, IBM and Coca-Cola have announced pull-outs. Buried in the context of the Congressional measure is the provision that after a year, if the President determines that no substantial progress has been made in dismantling apartheid, he would be required to take additional steps. These include barring South Africans from depositing money in U.S. banks, banning importation of diamonds and strategic minerals from South Africa and halting military aid to any country such as Israel that is believed to be violating the U.N. embargo on arms shipments to Pretoria. Who, then, is shooting whom in the foot? And the sanctions bill could have great bearing on the balance of power in the Middle East and Asia (Taiwan would also come under the arms scrutiny provision).

Gibraltar Slipping Away Slowly Another strategic and highly symbolic seagate is under renewed but subtle pressure. The citizens of Gibraltar are highly disturbed over an action initiated by the British government, as detailed in the August 31 SUNDAY TIMES of Britain:

Leaders in Gibraltar have begun the delicate task of composing a memorandum chastising the British government for removing a ceremonial guard from the border with Spain.... Gibraltar's love affair with the mother country makes it difficult to utter harsh words.

The Gibraltarians acknowledge that the crisis atmosphere in the colony must be perplexing to anyone who does not live here. After all, the only thing that has happened is that Britain has withdrawn the solitary sentry from a border with a friendly country which is not only a fellow EEC member but a NATO ally. But one of those at a meeting last Friday, Robert Basquez of the Gibraltar chamber of commerce, said: "The guard may have been an insignificant thing when it was there, but it became significant when it was removed because people think it must have been done for a far-reaching reason."

Most of the 30,000 Gibraltarians who live on the 2-3/4 square miles of rock, sand and pine view the action as proof that Britain is intent on divesting herself of a politically embarrassing and economically taxing vestige of imperialism. Gibraltarians fear that as a consequence the Rock will lose its separate identity and slowly merge with Spain by a process of "osmosis"--a word which dominates conversations here. The expression was first applied to Gibraltar's situation by Fernando Moran, the then Spanish foreign minister, at the signing of the 1984 Brussels agreement which opened the border.

A Gibraltarian knows his history in meticulous detail: that Gibraltar became a British colony in 1704, that since then the rock has withstood numerous sieges, that Gibraltarians have fought for Britain in two world wars, and that Gibraltarians are of British, Italian and Maltese origin but not Spanish. Even though most Gibraltarians speak Spanish as their mother tongue, they are fiercely proud of their British identity and observe British traditions and customs in a way unfashionable in Britain. Their streets are decked with patriotic slogans and painted Union Jacks that would do credit to a Loyalist area of Belfast.

The removal of the guard, who stood from dawn to dusk in a grey sentry box 15 paces from the border gates has aroused emotion varying from dismay and fear to disgust because Gibraltarians think it is yet one more step in a plan to unite them with Spain. Juan Carlos, a member of the Gibraltar Assembly, a miniature version of parliament, said: "The removal of the guard is a symptom of the disease and for the first time people are realising that the Brussels agreement was not just about opening the frontier but a much more involved process."

The Rock's opposition leader, Joe Bosano, whose party has seven members in the 15-seat assembly, said: "Most people feel themselves as being married to Britain for 300 years and feel that it is odd that the Foreign Office is inviting Spain to woo their wife. There's been a very sharp awakening for people to do more than just regret what happened and set in train activity to block the next move towards osmosis."...

Gibraltar's veteran leader, Sir Joshua Hassan, was overruled by Whitehall when he objected to the removal of the guard. The British government also wanted to remove the gates but relented when Hassan said that was going too far.... Hassan said: "Gibraltar has served Britain well but we do not want anything for that except respect for our wishes. We want to remain as Gibraltarians and to live our lives according to our British customs and traditions. We have an identity of our own which we want to retain.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau