

A Personal Letter

from

Garner Ted Armstrong

Dear brethren in Christ:
Greetings!

As I write, my father is at headquarters and is about to embark on another lengthy trip which will take him to the Middle East and Europe, as well as England.

I shall be leaving on the 15th, about the time many of you receive this issue of the *WN*, for a preliminary trip to Egypt, where I will be met by Mr. Adli Muhtadi at the Cairo airport and thence be engaged in a series of whirlwind meetings with officials in the Egyptian government, paving the way for in-depth television and radio interviews with top officials in the latter part of February and the first of March.

I hope to send back another series of on-the-spot radio broadcasts from various points along the way and in Egypt, and I hope almost all of you will be able to hear these programs I will do overseas.

As you have probably noticed, this

issue of the *WN* is actually two issues in one. While I include some overall comments on the *Plain Truth* and *Good News* in a special article inside the special issue, I wanted to expand on those comments here. I pointed to the improving content of the *Plain Truth* and explained that we hope to return to more of a magazine format within the first few months of 1976.

'Plain Truth' Improvements

I had asked the managing editor, Mr. Art Ferdig, to conduct an in-depth survey, including consultation with some of the top specialists in the publications field in New York City on some of these needed format changes, which he has done. We are sure that the more cautious and steady change for the *Plain Truth* is to be desired rather than sudden or capricious change for which we might be sorry later.

I know you have all noticed the new feature "Human Survival" in (See *PERSONAL*, page 4)

Mr. Armstrong begins 1976 with stops in Cairo, Jerusalem

PASADENA — Herbert W. Armstrong's first overseas trip in 1976 will take him to Cairo and Jerusalem, where he will hold back-to-back "testimonial dinners" at the end of January and in early February, according to Stanley Rader, vice president of financial affairs for the Work.

In a coworker letter dated Dec. 24, 1975, written en route from Paris to Pasadena on the last leg of his latest round-the-world trip, Mr. Armstrong announced that campaigns in 1976 are planned for Korea, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Thailand, Nigeria,

Malaysia and possibly India.

Mr. Armstrong also mentioned a second campaign will be conducted in Jamaica in 1976, with smaller campaigns planned for Barbados, Trinidad and the Bahamas. He also hopes for a campaign in South Africa.

Mr. Armstrong said many testimonial dinners are planned for 1976. A Jerusalem dinner is set for Feb. 3, while one in Cairo is planned for an earlier date, Mr. Rader said.

The Ethiopian ambassador to Egypt, who was once a guest on the Ambassador campus here, will be

host for the Cairo dinner, Mr. Rader said.

Mr. Armstrong will leave for the meetings in the Middle East about Jan. 27, according to Mr. Rader, who also said Mr. Armstrong will first make a trip to Mexico City Jan. 11 or 12.

In late February Mr. Armstrong will probably conduct a campaign in the Bahamas. Mr. Rader added that a follow-up appearance is planned for Jamaica (where Mr. Armstrong first appeared Nov. 21 and 22), and "preliminary appearances" are planned for Barbados and Trinidad.

Chicago tournament draws 61 teams

By Carl Gustafson

CHICAGO, Ill. — Sixty-one basketball teams from 11 states and the District of Columbia met here Dec. 25 to 27 for the 1975 Chicago Invitational Basketball Tournament.

Tournament headquarters was the 14-story O'Hare-Kennedy Holiday Inn Convention Complex, which was

filled to just under its 520-room capacity by tournament participants and fans.

An estimated 1,000 players, coaches and cheerleaders and 2,000 fans converged on Buffalo Grove High School, a new facility a half hour's drive from the hotel, where six basketball courts were kept in use almost constantly during two days of tournament play.

Games began at 10 a.m. Dec. 25 and went until midnight. The next day's action lasted from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. Seventy-five Illinois High School Association referees officiated the 83 tournament games, and the teams scored more than 6,000 points all together during the tourney.

51 Church Areas

The 61 teams, representing 51 church areas, were grouped into five divisions: senior AA, A and B and junior (YOU) A and B, with divisions designed to match teams of similar ability.

After two days of play, championship games in four of the five divisions were held Friday afternoon, Dec. 26. In the senior-AA championship, the Cleveland (Ohio) Panthers defeated the Florshiem Loafers, a team from a local Chicago church league, 71-64.

Appleton-Wausau, Wis., edged Lafayette, Ind., 55-54, in the senior-A-division championship game, and Grand Rapids, Mich., took the senior-B championship with a 62-49 win over St. Paul, Minn.

In the junior-B championship game, Fort Wayne, Ind., dropped Rockford, Ill., 49-43, with the junior-A championship scheduled for Saturday night, Dec. 27.

The next day 3,000 people met for Sabbath services in the convention hall at the hotel to hear a split sermon by Paul Flatt of Pasadena, southern-area coordinator of church administration, and Dean Blackwell, an evangelist and theology instructor at Ambassador College, Big Sandy.

On Saturday night, the first game featured the Ambassador College Royals of Big Sandy and Joliet Christian Youth Center of Joliet, Ill., a team of former college players competing on a junior-college level in the Chicago area.

Although the Royals took a 54-50 lead into the dressing room at halftime, they couldn't hold their

lead and lost to Joliet 106-89.

32 Teen Teams

The second game of the evening was the junior-A championship, with the winner to receive a trip to the Youth Opportunities United basketball tournament in Pasadena this spring. Thirty-two teen teams had entered the tourney, and now the Big Sandy Challengers, who had come to the tournament by bus with the Royals, squared off against the Chicago Fire, tournament winners for the last three years.

After a scoring duel between Big Sandy's Gary West (19 points) and the Fire's David Cain (23 points), Big Sandy came out on top 56-51. Gary was awarded the game's most-valuable-player trophy.

Upon registering at the tournament, each cheerleader had been (See *CHICAGO*, page 8)

1,600 attend campaign in Philippines

By Nap Acebron

MANILA — Colin Adair, director of the Philippine and Northeast Asian Work, held a campaign here Dec. 12 as a last-minute stand-in for Herbert W. Armstrong, who at the last moment was not able to speak as planned.

Osamu Gotoh, overseas-campaign director for the Work, had asked Mr. Adair to take the campaign just before it was to begin. Mr. Gotoh told the audience, estimated at 1,600, that with deep regret Mr. Armstrong would not be able to come as planned but that plans were being made for a bigger campaign here for March 20, 1976.

"Had I known at least 10 minutes before the campaign that Mr. Armstrong could not come, I would have shaken like a leaf," Mr. Adair said. "But the news was so sudden and given at such short notice by Mr. Gotoh that I simply had no time to feel nervous."

Mr. Adair began by explaining the difference between the Worldwide Church of God and Ambassador College. He also talked about (See *PHILIPPINES*, page 8)

'WN' produces year-end special

Don't be confused if you see two front pages of *The Worldwide News* in this issue, because it is actually an issue within an issue. Inserted within the regular bi-weekly *WN*, which this time is eight pages, is a special 16-page 1975 wrap-up issue. The special issue excerpt articles from all 25 of the 1975 editions.

Reviewing the year through the 396 pages of the Church newspaper in 1975 and trying to select the articles to be run was a major problem. How do you condense the major events, covering hundreds of pages, into 16?

"It was a real challenge to try to reduce the year's activities into 16 pages," said John Robinson, managing editor.

"When you work with one twenty-fifth of the space, the process of selection becomes very difficult. I'm sure we missed some things, and I'm sure that if someone else had done it they would have selected different stories. Our efforts aren't the ultimate or any sort of official listing, rather a selection of what struck us as newsworthy. We tried to maintain a balance in producing the issue."

Klaus Rothe, assistant managing editor, said putting together the special issue was "one of the most concentrated efforts we've ever put into any single project. We tried to make this special issue informative. It is the sort of thing that I think some of our readers would like to keep in a special place to remember the year by."

Senior editor Dixon Cartwright Jr. summed up his thoughts:

"More pages means more

75 YEAR-END SPECIAL
The Worldwide News
OF THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD
PUBLISHED WEEKLY
1975 YEAR-END SPECIAL

Ambassador for world peace has a 'very busy year' in 1975

1975 Feast conducted at 60 sites worldwide

GTA campaigns conducted in five cities

AICF expanding scope with 'Human Potential'

'PT' changes to new format

work for a small staff, but I think our subscribers will like the special; it'll help them remember how many things can happen in just a year."

Many of the major events of 1975 were recorded by *WN* editor Garner Ted Armstrong, who produced 22 "Personals" for the 25 issues of 1975. Mr. Armstrong wrote 896 column inches, or

about 75 feet of copy, for the *WN*.

"We wanted this year-end wrap-up issue to serve as a historical reference for many of the major events that transpired in the Work in 1975," Mr. Robinson said. "We think many of our readers will want to preserve the commemorative value by keeping it in some type of protective folder to avoid paper deterioration."

A special tribute to a total woman

PASADENA — "When the last page in her life was turned and the book was closed, God received her spirit, and now she is waiting to receive her crown," said minister Robert Oberlander in announcing the death of Vernice Ruby Lochner, 58, to the congregation here during a Dec. 6 sermonette in the Ambassador Auditorium.

In the weeks since Mrs. Lochner died of cancer at her home here, in the early-morning hours of Dec. 5, many friends and associates have taken time to honor her memory and pay tribute to her example as a wife, mother, teacher and Christian.

She and her husband, Dr. Floyd O. Lochner, are perhaps best known to the Church through their roles in Imperial Schools and the Summer Educational Program (SEP). For years Dr. Lochner was superintendent of the schools, while Mrs. Lochner served first as a first-grade teacher and later as dean of girls and instructor in home economics.

From the start of the SEP in 1962, and every year of the program until this past summer, she was active in the program's activities as girls' counselor and staff-faculty adviser.

The Alex, Okla., native graduated from the University of Oklahoma at Norman in 1938. A year later, in June, 1939, she married; she and Dr. Lochner were in their 37th year of marriage when she died.

In the spring of 1954 the Lochners were both baptized.

Mrs. Lochner began teaching at Imperial Schools, Big Sandy, in the spring of 1955, and Dr. Lochner began teaching at Imperial in the fall of the same year.

In 1956 the couple and their children were transferred to pioneer Imperial Schools, Pasadena. Dr. Lochner was named superintendent, and Mrs. Lochner continued her career of service to the school, which lasted until 1972, when she was appointed assistant dean of students for Ambassador College, Pasadena.

She is survived by her husband; a son, Floyd Otto Jr.; and a daughter, Mrs. David (Peggy LaRue) Harris.

The younger Lochner and his wife Nancy have two children: Greg, 5; and Peggy, 3.

The couple is expecting a third child.

The Harrises have three children:

Robb, 7; Shelly, 5; and Shana, 2.

A Great Teacher

Mrs. Lochner was greatly admired as a teacher both by her peers and by her students.

Dorothy Lacour, now director of continuing education at Ambassador College here, began teaching at Imperial in 1961. She said she learned from Mrs. Lochner how to teach elementary children, even though she already had a master's degree in another field.

"I taught second grade at Imperial School using the things which I had learned from her and was totally dependent upon her for inspiration and guidance, because when I began teaching I was not trained as a professional teacher."

In 1964 Mrs. Lacour began working in the school office and served Dr. Lochner as secretary and administrative aide until his assignment to the college in 1970.

"Mrs. Lochner was infinitely patient and alert to strengths in others and carried a great respect for children as well as for adults. How often I remember the little children coming out of the church crowd to throw their arms around her knees and look up with great joy in their faces. She always demonstrated her appreciation for those who interacted with her, with little notes, with little gifts, and was always ready to encourage, and yet firm in giving correction. Giving correction was difficult for her, yet she realized the need for other people to profit by it."

Mona Schurter, the former Mona Zachary, now married to Dale Schurter, director of development, Ambassador College, Big Sandy, taught at Imperial Schools in 1959 as a single college student. She, as Mrs. Lacour, observed Mrs. Lochner in the classroom for a year and later taught first grade with Mrs. Lochner.

Mrs. Schurter said she was always amazed at Mrs. Lochner's never-ending patience with children. "She never raised her voice. She would be firm in what she said. But she never yelled or raised her voice at the children. She had very good discipline in the classroom and had a respect for the children."

What Are Your Bowels?

Randal Dick, assistant pastor of the Washington, D.C., church, was a student in Mrs. Lochner's first-grade

class at Imperial here. He has fond memories of the first grade.

"You go through school and there are some grades where you look back and there are things you didn't like about it," said Mr. Dick. "But to me the first grade under Mrs. Lochner was a totally good experience."

Throughout the last 17 years Mr. Dick said he "had the opportunity to tell her how much I appreciated her contribution. I don't know if all of her students kept in touch with her or not, but I know there was a group . . . that were fond of her and maintained fairly close contact with Mrs. Lochner."

According to Mr. Dick, Mrs. Lochner is responsible for telling an anecdote about him when he was in elementary school. Young Randy was on the playground during recess when he felt the need to go to the rest room. Mrs. Lochner, who was standing nearby, said, "Well, Randy, you just went." To which he replied, "I know, ma'am, but I have to go again."

"Is there something wrong with your bowels?" Mrs. Lochner asked.

Mrs. Lochner also asked him if he knew what his bowels were.

Randy replied, "Oh, yes, ma'am, I do: A-E-I-O-U."

Outstanding Example

Mrs. Jack Bicket, wife of the manager of the Work's Accounting Department, recalled Mrs. Lochner as "an outstanding example.

"We first met the Lochners in the fall of 1959," she said. "Jack had just enrolled at Ambassador and was teaching math and science at Imperial. We were newly married and they adopted us as their children. We learned to love them like parents."

She recalled attending teachers' meetings with her husband and working with Mrs. Lochner on high-school banquets, preparing refreshments and food for school activities. Mrs. Lochner was with Mrs. Bicket at the birth of the Bickets' first child, Cindy, who will be 13 next July.

"Mrs. Lochner was an example in leadership and femininity. She combined the two as well as any lady I know. She excelled at being a wife, mother and teacher," Mrs. Bicket said.

"The one thing I learn: I most vividly from her was a keen sense of



VERNICE LOCHNER
JAN. 23, 1917-DEC. 5, 1975

loyalty and deep respect for those in authority over us, basically the leadership in the Church. I remember her as a woman full of joy and happiness, one who always had a cheery hello and just seemed to spread sunshine wherever she went."

Another admirer of Mrs. Lochner remembers her as a woman who lived God's way. "She set the example of character, rather than discussing character."

Mrs. Schurter also remembered trying to copy everything Mrs. Lochner did because she so deeply admired the way she conducted herself. "She was such an impressive woman. I admired her greatly and I watched the way she folded her hands and the way she held her Bible in church. I watched her in front of a classroom and tried to imitate the way she stood, the way she held her head, the way she talked.

"Laughing and joking with her over a cup of coffee on a shopping trip was just plain fun. She could go from one thing to another and she would just laugh and giggle and cut up. You would have a ball with her because her sense of humor was so spontaneous. She was just fun to be with."

"But when you had something serious to talk with her about, she never put you down or made you feel like she was superior to you in any way."

"I think both of the Lochners made everyone that came in close contact with them feel special."

Dark-Haired Sarah

Mrs. Schurter said she remembers hearing a sermon depicting the life of Abraham's wife Sarah in which the minister said Sarah was probably a fair-haired, fair-skinned woman. "That was a shock to me, because to me Mrs. Lochner was Sarah."

"She was the epitome of everything that I admired and respected in a woman. She could cook, she could sew, she got along with people well. Everyone liked her. She was just a total woman, and to me she was a dark-haired Sarah."

Ruth Walter, dean of women at Ambassador College, Big Sandy, pointed to the team effort of Dr. and Mrs. Lochner. Mrs. Walter taught at

Imperial Schools, Pasadena, in the early 1960s and spent many hours with Mrs. Lochner in the classroom.

"I would say two main things come to my mind when I think of Mrs. Lochner: the tremendous dedication she had along with Dr. Lochner in the educational field and how she went side by side with him through the years, establishing Imperial Schools and teaching and learning together. Couples like that are fairly rare, where the husband and wife are a team in an outside pursuit."

Mrs. Walter said that when she worked with Mrs. Lochner she felt she was constantly learning from her. She said Mrs. Lochner seldom said anything orally in the way of correction, "but I corrected so many things on just the basis of her example."

Mrs. Lacour also commented that Mrs. Lochner was a "Bible-oriented" person, yet not in a sentimental way. "When she had a problem she hunted for the answer in the Bible and taught others to do the same. She was completely selfless."

"In summary she was one of the greatest teachers that has ever lived. She was one of the most devoted wives whom the world has ever seen, a towering personality who gave all women who knew her a level of excellence for which they could press."

Example Far Above Many

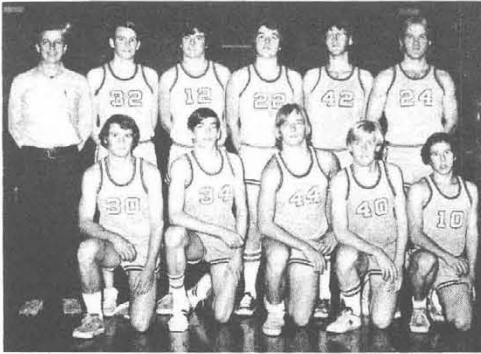
Evangelist Herman L. Hoeh conducted Mrs. Lochner's funeral service at Mountain View Cemetery in Altadena, Calif., Dec. 9. During the grave-side service he also paid tribute to her life. He said she was a "remarkable" woman who had set an example "far above many."

He spoke of the resurrection, when she will have a chance to teach and set an example for "not just hundreds" as she did in this life but be "an example, a guiding hand, a leader in the Kingdom of God, the family of God in the World Tomorrow . . ."

"We all fall short here and there, but let's walk in faith and go on in hope, as Vernice Lochner had to the very end of her life."



LOCHNER FAMILY — Dr. and Mrs. Lochner, center, pose at Orr, Minn., with their two children, Peggy and Otto.



CHICAGO WINNERS — The Big Sandy Challengers captured the junior-A division of the 1975 Chicago Invitational Basketball Tournament by defeating the Chicago Fire 56-51. From left, kneeling, are Tom Jones, Robert Gordon, Stanley West, Joe Pyle and David Torrance. Standing are coach Tim Alexander, Perry Worthen, Robert Klepfer, Gary West, Keith Payne and John Jones. [Photo by Scott Moss]



FASHION SHOW — Four of 70 contestants in a fashion show in Chicago Dec. 26 model their garments. They are, from left, Debbie Metz, winner in the coats-and-suits category and overall women's-division winner; Vera

THE OFFICIAL GRAPEVINE

PASADENA — Doctrinal discussions for those with questions from England (Gamer Ted Armstrong's "Personal," Dec. 22) were held here Dec. 29 and 30. Meeting with headquarters evangelists and members of the Doctrinal Committee were **Charles F. Hunting**, regional director of the Work in the British Isles; **Richard Plache**, director of the *Plain Truth* lecture series there; and **David Ord**, assistant to Mr. Hunting.

Also attending the meetings was **Kyriacos Stavrinides**, a preaching elder from Bricket Wood, England.

Herbert W. Armstrong opened the first meeting and was followed by **Gamer Ted Armstrong**, who outlined the events that led to the meetings, according to **Leslie L. McCullough**, International Division director.

Mr. McCullough said the questions presented revolved around "what portions of the law need New Testament Christians observe."

The first meeting began at 10 a.m. Monday, Dec. 29, and, following a lunch break, continued until 5:30 p.m. The Dec. 30 meeting began at 9 a.m. and, with a lunch break, ran

until 5:45 p.m.

After Tuesday's meetings the discussions were recessed to allow time for transcription of material presented orally and digestion of the questions presented.

Gamer Ted Armstrong announced that Mr. Hunting has been transferred to the United States and given a leave of absence "preparatory to reassignment." Mr. Plache has been reassigned to the United States, and his ministerial duties have been temporarily suspended.

Business manager **Frank Brown** has been named director of the Work in England and will move there in the near future.

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BURLEIGH HEADS, Australia — **Dennis Luker**, director of the Australian Work, is in the United States for two weeks.

Mr. Luker said this is the first time in two years he and his wife **Lee-Ann** have taken their two children, **Stephen**, 11, and **Leah**, 9, to visit relatives in Oregon and California.

Mr. Luker is spending three of the weeks in Pasadena, where he will talk with personnel of several departments to coordinate their activities with the Australian Work. The talks will include discussions on the availability of half-hour television programs for use on Australian television this year.

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PASADENA — **Gamer Ted Armstrong's** guest appearance on the nationally syndicated show *Hee Haw* will be seen nationwide Jan. 31, according to **Sherwin McMichael**, director of personal appearances, who helped arrange the appearance.

After singer **Buck Owens** appeared at several U.S. Feast sites in September, Mr. Owens' manager asked Mr. Armstrong to consider being on *Hee Haw*.

During the taping session in Nashville, Tenn., in October, Mr. Armstrong performed two songs, "Put Your Hand in the Hand," which was done with the entire *Hee Haw* cast, and another, "Working-man's Name."

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BIG SANDY — **Clarence Bass**, director of the Caribbean Work, delivered a sermonette to the Big

Chicago tournament draws 61 teams

(Continued from page 1)

given a ballot to indicate her choice for the best cheerleading squad. After watching the other squads in action, the cheerleaders returned their ballots and the five finalists performed two cheers apiece during half-time of the Ambassador-Jones game.

Cheerleaders in the stands were given a second ballot, with winners announced at the end of the junior-A championship game.

From 45 squads in the tournament, Bowling Green, Ky., cheerleaders took first place, followed by Dayton, Ohio; Peoria, Ill.; Fort Wayne, Ind.; and Chicago South, in that order.

After the Saturday-night game, a semiformal dance in the hotel convention hall featured a 15-piece

band.

During the awards ceremony, encee Mark Salyer, pastor of Chicago South, awarded trophies to the winners in each basketball division.

Dave Treybig of the Cleveland Panthers, winners in the senior-A division, received his division's most-valuable-player award for his 23-point game average.

David Cain of the Chicago Fire, with a 21-point average, was named most valuable player in the junior division.

Other Attractions

The Cincinnati (Ohio) Crusaders took first place in a YOU regional girls' volleyball tournament held in conjunction with the basketball competition.

Haynes, judged best overall model; Ellen Beltz, first in YOU sports-wear competition and overall YOU winner; and Elza Bowens, winner, professional category.

after-5, Eileen Booth, Wausau, Wis.; sports wear, Betty Gregory, Chicago Southwest; children's wear, Charlotte Trout, Chicago Southwest; coats and suits, Debbie Metz, Chicago Southwest; professional, Elza Bowens, Milwaukee; and recycled, Mrs. Dennis Gillen, Paducah, Ky.

YOU division: day wear, Lorna Flake, Indianapolis, Ind.; sports wear, Ellen Beltz, Kalamazoo, Mich.; coats and suits, Cathy Jackson, Chicago South; and evening wear, Brenda Wine, Elkhart, Ind.

The overall winners were Debbie Metz and Ellen Beltz.

Awards for modeling were presented to Terri Francis of Indianapolis in the YOU division and Sandra Henderson of Paducah in the women's division.

Vera Haynes of Chicago South was judged best overall model.

Philippines

(Continued from page 1)

Ambassador College Extension Program, which is being extended in this country with seminars at universities and colleges and before civic groups.

Mr. Adair expounded on the causes of the present world crises. He said the nuclear-arms stockpile is more than enough to kill mankind 50 times over. He talked about government crises, increasing crime rates, pollution, the population explosion, famine and pestilence.

He praised the "New Society" of Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos as a step in the right direction. He assured the audience a new and better world is indeed coming.

The 1½-hour campaign was videotaped by a television station.



MANILA CAMPAIGN — Colin Adair, left photo, speaks to 1,600 persons, right, in Quezon City Dec. 12. Osamu Gotoh sits behind Mr. Adair. [Photo by Jerry Ortiguero]



CLARENCE BASS

Sandy P.M. congregation the Sabbath of Dec. 27.

Mr. Bass, who lives in San Juan, Puerto Rico, spoke on the Work's activities in his area.

Mr. and Mrs. Bass were on the Ambassador campus here Dec. 27 and 28 on their way to visit relatives elsewhere in Texas.

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BRIDGETOWN, Barbados — One hundred sixteen people attended a Bible lecture conducted by **Carlos A. Nieto**, elder of the Bridgetown church and the congregation in Castries, St. Lucia, Dec. 7.

According to Mr. Nieto, 69 of those attending at the Barbados [See GRAPEVINE, page 4]