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Mr. Tkach brings Africans into close family circle

By Jeff E. Zhorne

PASADENA — "The heart-warming thing about visiting the members of our family in Africa is their conversion. It not only stands out, but it's a mile in front of them, like a beacon light, expressing the joy and spirit of God in them."

Thus said Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach, after returning from his April 15 to 27 trip to Ghana, Nigeria and Zimbabwe.

"One reason the brethren there were so very, very excited about Mr. Tkach's visit was summed up by Solomon Ayitey [a local church elder in Accra, Ghana]: It was the first time in over 1,900 years that an apostle of God has gone to visit them," said Lawrence Dietrich, co-captain of the Church's Gulfstream III jet.

"They were just beside themselves with excitement and anticipation," he added.

"If they could have, they would have picked us up and carried us," said Steve Bergstrom, remote operations engineer on the television crew, who accompanied the pastor general. "The African brethren are just that service oriented."

After overnight stays in Bermuda and Ivory Coast, the Church's G-III jet touched down in Accra, April 18, after a 40-minute flight from Abidjan, Ivory Coast.

Mr. Tkach was accompanied by Michael Feazell, his personal assistant; Joseph Locke, Ambassador Foundation vice president for international projects; Michael Rasmussen, staff aide; the Church's television crew: John Halford, on-location director, cameraman Mark Broadwater and Mr. Bergstrom; and the G-III flight crew: Captain Ken Hopke, co-captain Lawrence Dietrich and steward Jay Brothers.

Rendezvousing with the group in Ivory Coast were evangelist Frank Brown, regional director for Britain, Scandinavia, East and West Africa and the Middle East, and David Stirk, business manager for East and West Africa in the Borehamwood, England, Office.

Mr. Brown flew in the G-III with the group, while Mr. Stirk went on to Nigeria to help arrange for Mr. Tkach's visit there.

Ghana farm

After clearing customs and immigration in Accra, Mr. Tkach and his party were met by Josef Forson, pastor of the Accra and Kumasi,

Ghana, churches, Mr. Ayitey and ministerial assistant Eke Udeagha.

Mr. Forson escorted the group on a tour of the Church's self-supporting farm project in Kutunsi, Ghana, 30 minutes north of Accra.

Mr. Tkach and the group saw several plots of vegetables and fruits tended by brethren, and also areas where chickens, goats and pigeons are raised.

Mr. Brown, explaining the background of the farm, said: "In 1981 Melvin Rhodes, then pastor of the churches in Ghana, because of severe economic conditions, decided that Church members would benefit from growing their own food.

"He then negotiated a long lease on 26 acres of farmland just outside of Accra. They now have a thriving, going concern that more than supplies their needs."

Mr. Halford added: "Their health has improved, their second-tithe account is boosted and they've got themselves a base of operation. It's a teaching-them-how-to-fish approach, and it had a significant impact on Mr. Tkach."

The group toured the almost-completed facilities for a Summer Educational Program (SEP) camp. "The children will be able to use it this summer for the very first time," Mr. Tkach said. "I'm just happy they're able to have those facilities."

"After lunch in the home of Mr. Forson and his wife, Gloria, Mr. Tkach addressed more than 350 brethren in Accra about the unity of the Holy Spirit and being one in Christ," Mr. Feazell said.

He added, "He also quoted the



LOVE OF BRETHREN — Brethren from Zimbabwe, Zambia and Botswana encircle Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach after services in the Sheraton Hotel in Harare, Zimbabwe, April 22. [Photo by Rolf Varga]

motto of Jamaica: 'Out of many, one people,' and a slogan of Ivory Coast: 'Peace is not just a word. It is a way of life.'

The pastor general then announced that he had directed Mr. Forson and Mr. Brown to look into purchasing a bus to transport brethren to Sabbath services. (In general, brethren are without private vehicles.)

"When the brethren heard that, they jumped out of their seats, clapped and said, 'Thank-you, Mr. Tkach,'" according to Mr. Brothers, G-III steward.

After services Mr. Tkach shook

hands with the brethren and was presented with a double-edged knife made of solid ivory.

"One thing that made a big impression on the brethren was when Mr. Tkach said in his sermon that 'God is not the God of the white man, not the God of the black man, nor the God of the yellow man, but the God of all men,'" Mr. Locke said. "Mr. Tkach really made the black brethren in Africa truly feel a part of God's work."

On to Nigeria

A 40-minute flight that evening took Mr. Tkach and his group to the

Lagos, Nigeria, airport, where they were met by Mr. Stirk and Lateef Edalere, pastor of the Lagos, Benin City and Owerri, Nigeria, churches.

Customs and immigration procedures took more than three hours.

"When we were finally approved to enter the country, there our members were, waiting," Mr. Tkach recounted. "Here we had been sitting in the VIP room, which was air-conditioned, but the delay was beginning to show on all of us.

"Then we saw God's people out there who had waited outside for (See AFRICA, page 3)

PERSONAL FROM Joseph W. Tkach

Dear brethren:

I have just returned home after an inspiring and most enjoyable visit with our brethren in the African nations of Ghana, Nigeria and Zimbabwe.

As always, it was wonderfully encouraging to see God's Spirit at work, expressed in the enthusiasm and smiling faces of His elect in all parts of the world.

In the French-speaking nation of Ivory Coast, where we stopped over on the way to Ghana, there is a national slogan exhibited throughout the country on signs and billboards. Translated into English, it would go something like this: "Peace is not just a word. It is a way of life."

In God's Church we are able to understand the real truth of that statement. Through the unifying force of God's Spirit we are able to pioneer the true peace that will one day fill the whole earth. Whatever our background, whatever our color, language, nationality or sex, we are now part of the household of God — one in Christ!

I learned an important lesson in humility at the airport in Lagos, Nigeria. Upon arrival in Lagos after a very long and tiring day in Ghana, we experienced a considerable delay of about three hours while our papers were being cleared.

During the wait, we were moved to three different (air-conditioned) rooms, and given no indication of how long the delay would last. After a while I began to grow a little impatient. We were all tired, and the uncertainty was frustrating.

But when we were finally cleared to leave the airport for the hotel, who did we find standing patiently outside the airport to welcome us, some for five or six hours, first in the hot African sun, then in the dark, but about 200 of the Nigerian brethren!

God certainly has a way of humbling us, and teaching us to be content in whatever state we find ourselves.

Again I want to thank all of you for your prayers about these trips. I know God hears them, and has blessed these opportunities to meet and speak to His people the world over.

Mr. Richard Rice, director of

the Mail Processing Center, pointed out to me that since 1984 the yearly record weekend WATS response to the *World Tomorrow* television program has become the average response for the next year.

In 1984 the average weekend response was 9,087 calls, and the record or top response was 13,873. In 1985 the average response jumped to 14,737, and the record was 26,020. In 1986 the average became 27,573, and the record response was 45,290 (not including the special tribute program). So far in 1987 the average is 42,749, and the record is 64,104. We can truly be thankful for the wonderful increase God has been granting.

Brethren, as we move now toward the Feast of Pentecost, let's be careful to keep firmly in mind the lessons of the Days of Unleavened Bread. Just as God led the ancient Israelites out of Egypt, a land He used to typify sin, so we must continue to move farther away from the sins of our former manner of life.

After I saw the desert Moses had to take the Israelites into, I better understood why they often were tempted to return to Egypt.

We too are sometimes tempted by the world we have left behind. But we must not let the temptations of this world nor the trials of our Christian life cause us to take our eyes from the goal God has set before us.

As we read in Hebrews 12:2, "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."

We must remain firmly attached to the true vine, Jesus Christ, so that we, like Him, can keep our focus on the joy that is set before us.

That is why daily prayer is so important. And we must consider how much time we are devoting to devouring the Word of God — the Bible. This is a major part of developing the mind of Christ. He has given us His Spirit to act as a catalyst with our minds to open our understanding to spiritual things.

As the elect of God, we should become more and more familiar with His Word. This regular contact with God, through prayer and study of the Bible, must become a part of us. After all, how can we put into action what we don't even know, or what we seldom, if ever, think about?

The most glorious and dazzling future lies ahead of every one of us. We must keep our eyes fixed on those promises as we strive for perfect oneness with our Father and His Son, our elder Brother. God has indeed called us to a way of life! Let's walk in it!

With love, in Jesus' name,
Joseph W. Tkach

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Politicians ignoring the lessons of history

PASADENA — "The politics of protectionism have the look of a self-perpetuating machine."

That is how *The Wall Street Journal*, in its April 28 lead editorial, described the mood in the U.S. Congress to enact tougher legislation against Japan and other countries alleged to be dealing unfairly in trade with the United States.

The inflammatory issue came to a peak April 30 when the House of Representatives passed a tough trade bill, ignoring both a threat by President Ronald Reagan to veto it, and warnings that, if the bill were enacted, a full-blown trans-Pacific trade war would erupt.

The bill has a controversial provision, adopted the previous day, at the insistence of Rep. Richard A. Gephardt of Missouri, that would require any country found by Congress to be committing unfair trade practices to arbitrarily cut its trade surplus by 10 percent annually or face stiff tariffs and fees.

The Senate is unlikely to go along with the Gephardt amendment in drafting its trade bill. The bill that emerges will be more moderate, but will still be the toughest U.S. trade legislation in some 50 years.

Mr. Nakasone's fears

The timing of the House action could not have been more dramatic. It came as Japan's Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone began an official visit to Washington, with the trade dispute the No. 1 issue in his meetings with President Reagan.

In rare criticism of Congress from a foreign leader, Mr. Nakasone said in a statement: "I am apprehensive that the bill, if legislated, may lead to a contraction of world trade. I sincerely hope that

the current bill will not be legislated in the current form."

He added that trade troubles must not "undermine the friendship and mutual trust between the two countries."

The prime minister outlined a series of steps his government would undertake to try to encourage more imports from the United States. He appealed in turn that selected trade sanctions levied against the nation by a reluctant President Reagan April 17 soon be lifted.

Mr. Nakasone spent his flight time to Washington reading about the life of Prince Fumimaro Konoye, Japan's last civilian prime minister before World War II.

Mr. Nakasone was impressed by efforts to arrange a meeting between Mr. Konoye and President Franklin Roosevelt to stave off developing ill feelings between the two nations.

"If that meeting had occurred, perhaps World War II would not have taken place," the prime minister said.

Politics, politics

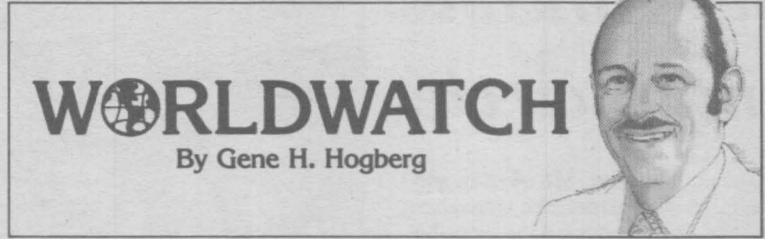
The unfortunate fact is, the trade issue has gotten mixed up in U.S. politics, specifically the onrushing 1988 national election campaigns. Being tough on trade is considered to be good politics for some aspirants to high office, notably the aforementioned Rep. Gephardt.

As the April 30 *Wall Street Journal* reported: "The drive that led Rep. Richard Gephardt to win House approval yesterday of a tough trade amendment has catapulted him into the front ranks of the contenders for the 1988 Democratic presidential nomination . . . His identification with the issue has transformed him from a House fig-

ure into a household word . . . Mr. Gephardt, in fact, tailored his legislative tactics to fit his campaign strategy. He fought for his amendment on the House floor, where proceedings are televised . . . He orchestrated a series of press events in the days leading to the vote and, on

45 and 60 years. (One is called the Kondratieff cycle — named after a 1920s Russian economist.)

One reason that such long cycles seem to have some validity — note the parallel between today's trends and the events of the late '20s and early '30s — is precisely because a



Monday, lingered outside his own news conference because an aide had noticed that an NBC camera crew hadn't arrived."

The Missouri congressman has thus established himself as the principal opponent of the Reagan administration's trade policies. There is more than just an ideological difference involved in the positions taken by the two men.

President Reagan, 76, has lived long enough to remember the last time restrictive trade legislation swept like wildfire through the U.S. Congress — the notorious Smoot-Hawley Act of 1930.

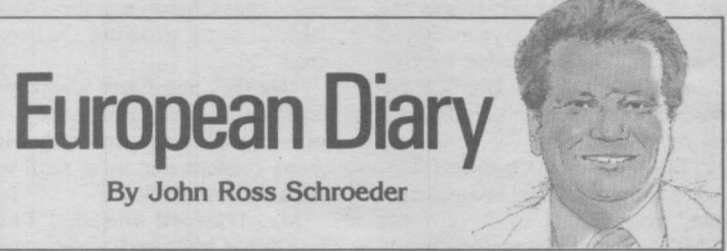
Rep. Gephardt, 46, does not have personal identification with that grimmest of economic times. Memories of bank closures, 25 percent unemployment, soup lines and corporate executives selling apples on street corners for a nickel apiece do not enliven the memory of younger political figures in their 30s and 40s who now sit in Congress.

Some economists have detected economic cycles that last between

whole new set of political leaders is on the scene at the end of the cycle.

One Kondratieff believer, money manager Douglas Kirkland, explained it, "It has all happened before, but . . . each generation, in its arrogance, chooses to forget."

The April 28 *Wall Street Journal* editorial quoted earlier also noted, in this light: "History holds a special place for the politician



Does West underestimate rising Japanese power?

BOREHAMWOOD, England — Earlier this year many observers contemplated a potential trade war between the United States and the European Economic Community (EEC). But conflicts were resolved by last-minute agreements.

Now talk is of a two-against-one affair against the Japanese. *The Times'* Brussels, Belgium, correspondent, Richard Owen, wrote April 7, "The European Economic Community is poised to join the United States in taking action against Japan on a range of products, which it says are flooding Europe and threatening the European Community."

One columnist relished the idea of ganging up against Japan. But most observers are cautious about Japanese bashing.

Robert J. Samuelson warned in the April 14 *International Herald Tribune*: "The illusion is that the West can compel the Japanese to do what is right for them and for the West. Americans rationalize the stridency of their rhetoric and action as necessary evils for a greater good . . . But the best U.S. policy is to be patient."

Financial giant

The West would do well not to underestimate Japan. Nine of the top 10 world banks are Japanese. The Union Bank of Switzerland is 10th.

And as Philip Beresford reported in the April 5 *Times*: "Tokyo became the world financial power centre last week, serving notice that in any protracted financial trade war the West faces a formidable adversary."

"*Sunday Times* research shows that late on Friday afternoon [April 3], the Tokyo stock exchange market value finally caught up with and overtook Wall Street for the first time, reflecting a remarkable surge in the Japanese market during the past 15 months."

Analyze two vanquished nations — Japan and West Germany. Both were in economic tatters after World War II. With Ameri-

whose immortality rests on folly. The infamous tariff bill of Sen. Reed Smoot (1862-1941) and Rep. Willis Hawley (1864-1941), has entered the lexicon as a classic example of foolish legislation. The Smoot-Hawley tariff set the highest import duties in U.S. history and helped touch off the Great Depression.

"European countries retaliated and the subsequent decline in trade did much to prolong the economic misery. We can't help but wonder if the ghost of Smoot or Hawley hasn't taken possession of Richard Gephardt."

The global economic slump of the 1930s, furthermore, factored directly into the imperialistic designs of Japan and Nazi Germany.

The *Los Angeles Times*, in its May 1 editorial, also counseled caution: "Pressures to get fairer access to foreign markets are legitimate and should continue. But crude pressures that could only be bound to weaken the American economy, like the Gephardt amendment, solve nothing. That is the clear lesson of history, and Americans will pay dearly if it is forgotten."

Are the politicians listening? It would appear not.



and draw a line through the middle of the page vertically. Title the left side of the sheet *Announcements* and the right side *Action*.

It's good to even note the items that don't directly concern you. You never know when someone who missed services because of illness (or who failed to listen) will ask you about an announcement. That can save the ministers yet another phone call asking about something mentioned on the Sabbath.

The second key to using the announcements portion is to follow through on those items that concern you.

Write down under *Action* what you are going to do about that particular announcement. Write *cooperate* with those who have asked for your help, *sign lists* for what you are interested in, *contact* the crew heads who want you to contact them, *pray* for the work and your brethren who are ill. Make a checklist for yourself.

From time to time we receive details in church announcements about how to handle Holy Day offerings and instructions for Feast planning. It's important that every one of us follow the instructions received to the letter so that the whole Church membership can reap the blessings.

Don't think of yourself as only a small drop in a bucket of members. A relatively small percentage of members can ruin arrangements for the many by deciding to follow their own way.

The attitude of being "dull of hearing" toward what we're told by the ministry or by the Church is contagious, and can spread to other areas of our lives. Learn to be an active, dependable member of the team.

We aren't perfect. But, that's what we're to become. Take some time to focus on how you can improve in following your minister's instructions. Then think of other areas, no matter how small, that could use touching up. Become ye therefore perfect.



Just one more thing

By Dexter H. Faulkner

Perfection starts small!

"Little things make perfection and perfection is no trifle," said Michelangelo.

Christ exhorted Christians to become perfect, just as God is. "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect" (Matthew 5:48).

The word *perfect* is like the word *unique*. Something is either unique, or it's not. It can't be almost unique, very unique or sort of unique.

We as Christians aren't *almost* perfect, *very* perfect or *sort of* perfect. If we're almost perfect, then we're not yet perfect. There's still some work to be done to attain the goal. Actually, as long as we live, there is fine tuning to be done to our character in every area.

If we're close to God we should want to change every detail of our lives to be more like our Creator's. Just as Michelangelo's paintings were made up of thousands of little brush strokes, our lives are made up of thousands and millions of small physical acts, seemingly insignificant habits and brief thoughts.

When we take steps to bring these in closer agreement with God's way, we're painting more of the beauty of God's character into our lives.

Take time to sit down and make a list of small areas of your character that could use touching up.

Break down into smaller components major goals you have set. It's often easier and more effective to focus on smaller habits and areas of life, one at a time, than it is to re-

arrange a major part of your personality all at once. It's also encouraging to see the headway you make as you accomplish these intermediate goals.

For example, perhaps your major goal is to be more responsive to those in authority over you. One of your intermediate goals could be: listening and responding to church announcements.

I'm sure our ministers hope that more attention is paid to their sermons than is paid to the announcements. Most could tell you stories of activities that failed and opportunities that were missed because announcements went unheeded.

Some ministers go to great lengths to capture the congregation's attention. It's not easy to compete with parents settling their kids down, people exiting to use the restrooms and others watching the cute babies in the row in front of them.

The ministers might animate the announcements, repeat them one or more times, post them on the bulletin board or have photocopies handed out to each person — all so that you can benefit from them. Even so, it's a tendency for some in each church area to regularly tune out announcements.

An important key to getting the most out of the announcements portion is to regularly take notes. Most items are information or instruction for later events, be they after-church newsstand meetings, announcements of activities, news of the work or prayer requests.

Take a fresh sheet of note paper

Africa

(Continued from page 1)

that amount of time — not in an air-conditioned environment, but in all the heat and humidity.

"And yet they were patiently waiting, excitedly waiting to see those of us who came to visit them."

"It seemed that no matter where we went on the trip, God's people were there to greet us at the airport, applauding, and many of them with tears of joy running down their cheeks," the pastor general continued.

Mr. Halford said, "We found this to be typical of the faith and patience of our African members."

The next morning, April 19, Lagos brethren, including Church youths, presented *Africa!*, a selection of African culture and music. Videotaped by the television crew, the performance will be shown during the Feast of Tabernacles.

"Following the performance, the YOU presented Mr. Tkach with a personally tailored Nigerian national costume," Mr. Brown said.

"Afterward youths and parents attended a reception for Mr. Tkach and his party, and a group photo was taken," Mr. Feazell said.

On the last day of Unleavened Bread, April 20, Mr. Brown gave the sermon in the morning, and Mr. Tkach, wearing part of the national dress, spoke to 522 brethren in the afternoon.

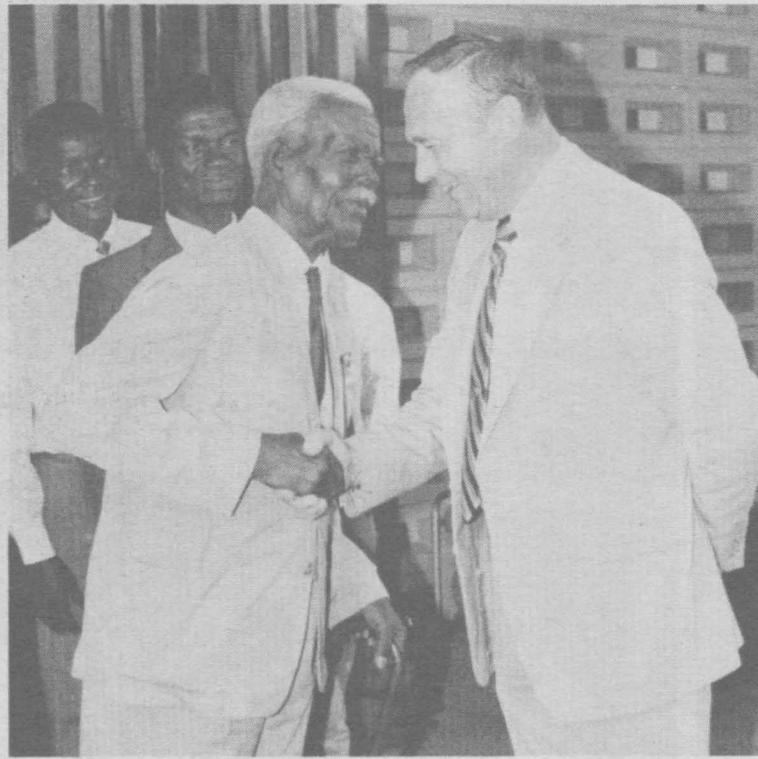
"I think Mr. Tkach really drove the points home at each place he visited," remarked Mr. Brown. "His vivid and meaningful examples and analogies came across quite well."

"The high point was just being there around the people, being able to talk with them and share their joys and burdens," said Mr. Bergstrom.

"In Africa," Mr. Halford added, "there are a lot of burdens to bear. They are up against many things, but the difficulties aren't insurmountable. God always delivers."

"You could see the enthusiasm and knowledge and understanding in their eyes that soon this world will pass away and they will be kings and rulers in tomorrow's world," Mr. Halford continued.

After services Mr. Tkach, Mr. Brown, Mr. Edalere, Mr. Stirk and Mr. Feazell ordained Oyebamiji Oladele from Ibadan, Nigeria, who attends the Lagos church, and Boni-



OLDEST MEMBER — Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach meets David Isaac Quartey, at 92, the oldest Ghanaian member. [Photo by Michael Rasmussen]

face Chimezie from Owerri, to the rank of local church elder.

Brethren then presented Mr. Tkach with a "finely engraved, biblically oriented wooden carving of two men struggling together, titled 'The Prevailer,'" according to Mr. Feazell.

On the way back to the hotel after services, the pastor general cut the ribbon for the Church's new office in Lagos.

"The office is in a very beautiful building, brand new, with large rooms and plenty of room for growth," Mr. Tkach said. "I was pleased to see the kind of growth God is providing in that part of the world."

That evening Mr. Tkach was host to a buffet dinner for ministers and wives.

Later the pastor general called Pasadena Auditorium P.M. brethren and said he was "very happy and thrilled to see things firsthand," and that Mr. and Mrs. Edalere "are doing an excellent job."

He said he had asked Mr. Brown and Mr. Edalere to look into developing a permanent SEP and Feast site in Nigeria. "I instructed the congregation to pray about it, because I'm sure they can move God's heart to provide the necessities, the facilities and especially the land."

Zimbabwe

April 21, after a three-hour delay on the tarmac at the Lagos airport, the G-III took off for Harare, Zimbabwe, with Mr. Brown and Mr. Stirk accompanying the group.

"Mr. [William] Bentley told us that, as everybody waited in Harare for the G-III to arrive, children thought every pigeon in the sky might be the plane!" Mr. Feazell said.

After arriving, Mr. Tkach was greeted by evangelist Leslie McCullough, South African regional director; his wife, Marion; Mr. Bentley, pastor of the Harare and Chegutu, Zimbabwe, and Lusaka, Zambia, churches; his wife, Glen; and George Efthyvoulos, pastor of the Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, church; and his wife, Poppy.

In the airport, among brightly painted banners welcoming the pastor general and his party, Harare brethren broke into song.

"The whole airport was filled with beautiful, harmonized music, written by a Church member," said Mr. Rasmussen. "It was just incredible."

"You should have heard the sound," Mr. McCullough wrote afterward to ministers in South Africa. "It was fantastic inside that stone building. John Halford rushed a TV camera, which hadn't cleared customs yet, out to film the reception, so you may see it at Feast time."

Mr. McCullough continued: "The 7½ hours some had been waiting in the hot sun was a small price in the minds of the Church members. You talk about excited! Then some of them had to walk several kilometers to get home."

That evening Mr. Tkach was host to a reception for ministers, deacons and their wives in the Sheraton Hotel, where services took place the following night.

April 22, before his sermon to more than 400 brethren from Zimbabwe, Zambia and Botswana, Mr. Tkach asked Mr. Brown, Mr. McCullough and Mr. Stirk to the stage to raise Mr. Bentley to a preaching elder.

"He was rather shaken by it all," said Mr. McCullough.

At the end of services, Mr. Bentley presented Mr. Tkach with a painting of the Zimbabwe Ruins, painted by Napoleon Mitatave, a Harare member. An accompanying card read, "A house built on a rock shall not fall."

Mr. Tkach was also given a pictorial book about the country, titled *Beneath a Zimbabwe Sun*. It was signed, "We pray that you will take away lasting and wonderful memories of the love of God's people in Zimbabwe."

"Mr. Tkach and all the others spent a long time talking with everyone, and then the group broke up and went home in a truly joyful spirit," said Mr. McCullough.

The next morning, April 23, the pastor general and the group flew to Victoria Falls, a Feast of Tabernacles site.

Before landing "we overflew the falls, taking care not to invade Zambian air space," said Mr. McCullough. "They occasionally shoot at something they don't like."

Victoria Falls was formed from hot volcanic lava oozing through the earth's crust, forming crevices as it cooled.

"The flooding Zambezi River caused the crevices to recede, creating cavernous gorges," according to *Beneath a Zimbabwe Sun*. "Emerald grass, trees and exotic flora of the Rain Forest, and glistening black basalt rock set the stage for this, nature's most splendid and enduring drama. The Victoria Falls are one of the wonders of the world."

The width of the falls is 1,688 meters (more than a mile), and the highest of the five falls is 108 meters (356 feet). The force of the water sends spray clouds spinning high into the sky, often reaching heights of more than 500 meters (1,650 feet), according to *Beneath a Zimbabwe Sun*.

For this reason, Mr. Brothers commented, it appears to be raining upside down and "as if you're right inside of a fog."

Returning to the bus to get more

film, Mr. Rasmussen was accosted by baboons.

"As I was walking I heard a loud rustling noise coming from the brush behind me," he related. "I slowly turned around, and there, about 20 feet behind me, stood a baboon. He was standing on his back legs and stood about 5 feet tall."

"He made a fierce growling sound and began to jump up and down. I started walking backward toward the bus, but I noticed two smaller baboons behind me."

"I sent up a silent, quick prayer and walked slowly toward the bus. The baboons finally seemed to lose interest, and I made it to the bus safely."

After a tour of a crocodile farm, the group returned to Harare, and Mr. and Mrs. McCullough flew to Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, to conduct Sabbath services there April 25.

Friday, April 24, the G-III flew to Masvingo, where Mr. Tkach encountered three *Plain Truth* readers working at the airport. "You can imagine how excited they were to meet us," Mr. Tkach said.

Outside Masvingo the group saw the Great Zimbabwe Ruins.

When Great Zimbabwe was discovered in 1868 by German-born Adam Renders, the ruins were overgrown with trees and bushes.

Since then, evidence of five eras has been unearthed in archaeological excavations, which show that building and economic activity last took place there in the 15th century.

Lunch featured a traditional African dish, similar to cornmeal mush with beef stew, Mr. Feazell said.

Engine trouble

Returning to Harare, the group noticed a particularly loud noise in the G-III's right engine. Mr. Tkach said it sounded like "a loose ball bearing floating around in the engine."

"It was obvious something was wrong, so Captain Hopke felt it was necessary to cancel the scheduled trip to Malawi," he continued.

Exchanging starters from one engine to the other cut down the noise, but "we suspected something was wrong," said Captain Hopke. "We just checked it out, and it appeared to be normal."

"We did everything we could to verify in all minds that everything was safe," he added. "We weren't going to take any chances."

On the Sabbath, April 25, Mr. Tkach decided to have a phone call recorded and played for brethren in Malawi.

Mr. Stirk, who was already in Malawi, associate pastor Kenneth Buck and Owen Willis, pastor of the churches in East Africa, arranged to use some audio facilities at a recording studio in Malawi, Mr. Feazell explained.

"Then Mr. Tkach called from Harare, and they recorded it on the other end. They had a very good connection, and the recording came across very well," he continued.

"They took the recording to services and played it there. Mr. Stirk informed us that though the brethren were disappointed, they really appreciated the call."

One hundred eighty-seven were in attendance at services.

Mr. Tkach, who spoke for about 20 minutes, said he realized their disappointment but would make an effort to see them when he returns to Africa.

Later on the Sabbath Mr. Tkach visited Elliot Chichaya, 56, a member since 1965 who has been intermittently hospitalized for the past four years.

"He is partially paralyzed after three back operations," Mr. Halford said. "He is a grandfather, with children and grandchildren in the Church."

"You can imagine the joy that came over his face, seeing the pastor general visit him personally in the hospital," Mr. Locke said.

"He not only sat up while in severe pain, but after bear hugs, crossed his arms, laid down with a big smile on his face and said, 'Now I'm ready to die.'"

"Talk about an attitude," Mr. Tkach said. "There's a man who's been hospitalized for about four years. And yet he expressed this kind of a wonderful attitude. He didn't have a complaining bone in his whole body."

April 26, after stopping for fuel in Accra and the Cape Verde Islands, Mr. Tkach and his party stayed overnight in Bermuda, arriving back into the Burbank, Calif., airport at 2 p.m., the next day.

A visit to remember

"There is no doubt that the members, who were very welcoming and enthusiastic, had a visit they will long remember," said Mr. Brown. "It was a tremendous morale booster in every way."

"I found that the ministers in all three churches, and those who assisted them, were all very cooperative and eager to help us in any way they could," said Mr. Broadwater of the television crew.

"Since returning I've often thought about the trip, mulling over the different events, savoring each moment."

Mr. Bergstrom related: "As we were playing back some of the tapes in the television studio, transferring them to 1-inch tape for editing, a captive audience gathered in the video control room and watched some of the talent show in Nigeria."

"It was just astounding the effect it had on them. They said it will surely have a resounding effect on the brethren worldwide during the Feast film."

"The African brethren realized that Mr. Tkach is interested and they are an important part of God's work," Mr. Halford said. "To say, 'God's people are the same everywhere,' has become a bit of a cliché. It shouldn't be — it is a reality."

The Worldwide News

CIRCULATION 61,500

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Report from

the Treasurer's Office

LeRoy Neff

PASADENA — The week of May 4 to 8 the Arthur Andersen audit for 1986 was completed. Again the opinion page states that our financial statements "present fairly the combined financial position . . . as of December 31, 1986 and 1985, and the results of their operations and the changes in their financial position for the years then ended, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a consistent basis."

We are pleased with this good report from so major an auditing organization.

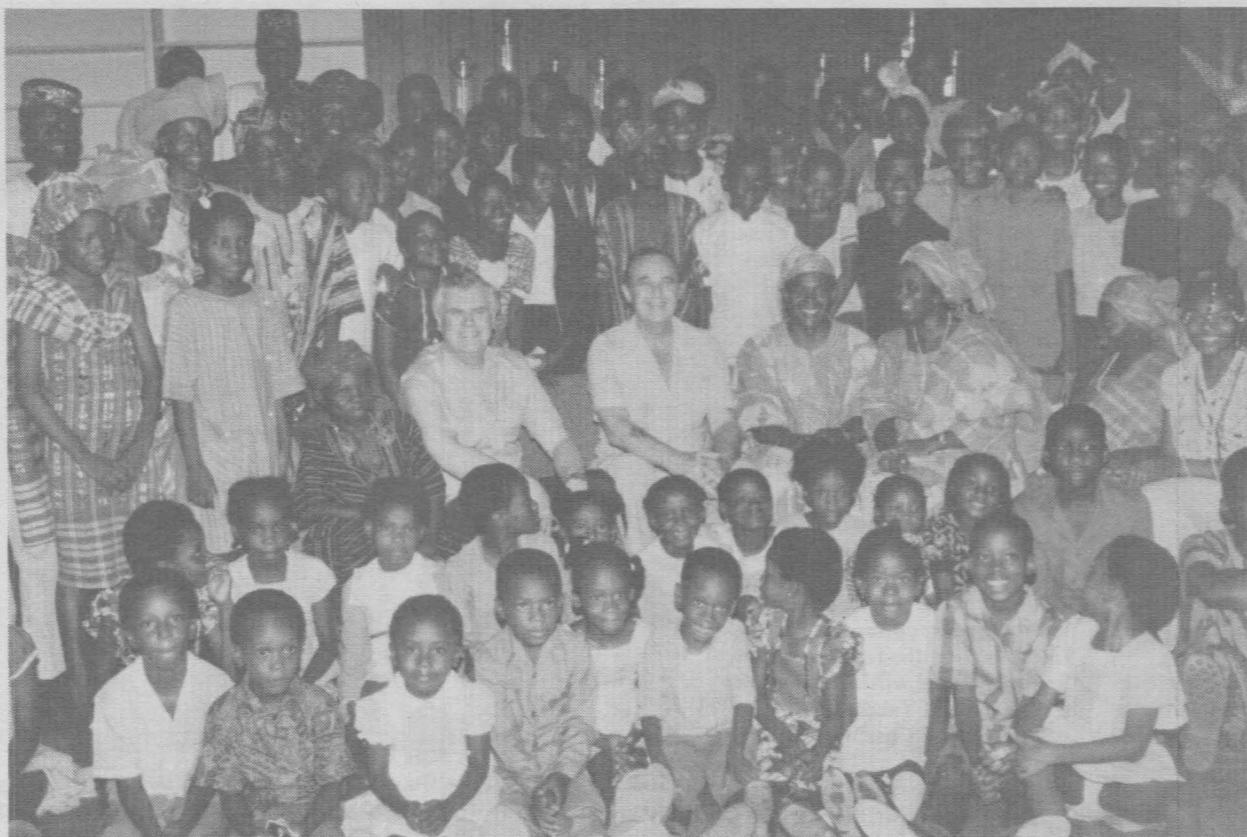
This audit shows that during 1986 the income of the Church worldwide increased 11.2 percent over the previous year.

The contributions toward the purchase of the Office Facilities Building continue to pour in.

The Office Facilities Building expense and income were not included in this year's budget figures. When these figures are deleted from our income figures through April, the increase for the year stands at 7.7 percent. This is 1.7 percent above our income budget. During this same period the expenses are 4.6 percent under budget. These two figures indicate that we are doing well financially so far in 1987.



KUTUNSI, GHANA



LAGOS, NIGERIA



HARARE, ZIMBABWE

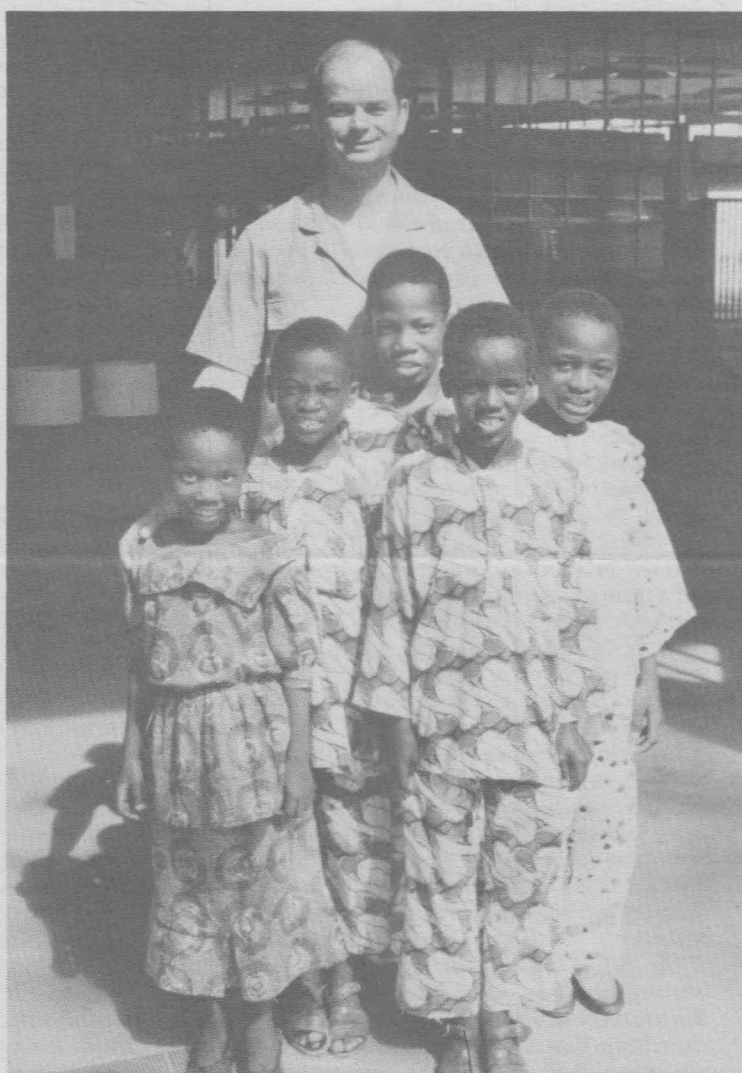


HARARE, ZIMBABWE

Sharing their joys and burdens

AFRICAN VISIT — Clockwise from top left, Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach plants a tree at the Church's Summer Educational Program (SEP) site on the Church-owned farm in Kutunsi, Ghana; Mr. Tkach is surrounded by *Africa!* performers in Lagos, Nigeria, with British regional director Frank Brown (on Mr. Tkach's right), Lateef Edalere, Lagos pastor, and Mr. Edalere's wife, Yvonne (both on Mr. Tkach's left); congratulates William Bentley, Harare, Zimbabwe, pastor, after ordaining him a preaching elder in Harare, with (from left) Leslie McCullough, South African regional director, Mr. Brown and David Stirk from the British Office; is met at the Harare airport; surveys the area around Kutunsi with Josef Forson, Accra and Kumasi, Ghana, pastor;

special music in Lagos; converses with two members in Lagos; is shown vegetables grown on the Kutunsi farm; meets brethren in Harare; encourages member Elliot Chichaya, who, said Mr. Tkach, "didn't have a complaining bone in his whole body," at a Harare hospital; and Michael Feazell, Mr. Tkach's personal assistant, with five Nigerian children. Below, from left: Members from the bush country traveled to Masvingo, Zimbabwe, to see the pastor general (Mr. Bentley, far left); ribbon cutting at the Church's Lagos Office with (from left) Mr. Stirk, Mr. Brown and Mr. Edalere; and Mr. Tkach spending an informal moment with Solomon Ayitsey (left), a local church elder in Accra, and Mr. Forson. [Photos by Michael Rasmussen, and two top right photos by Rolf Varga]



LAGOS, NIGERIA



MASVINGO, ZIMBABWE



LAGOS, NIGERIA



ACCRA, GHANA



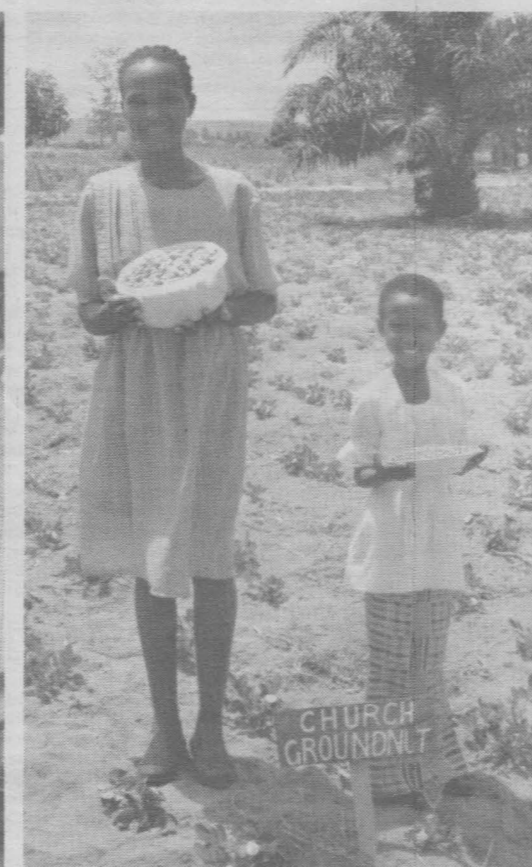
KUTUNSI, GHANA



HARARE, ZIMBABWE



HARARE, ZIMBABWE



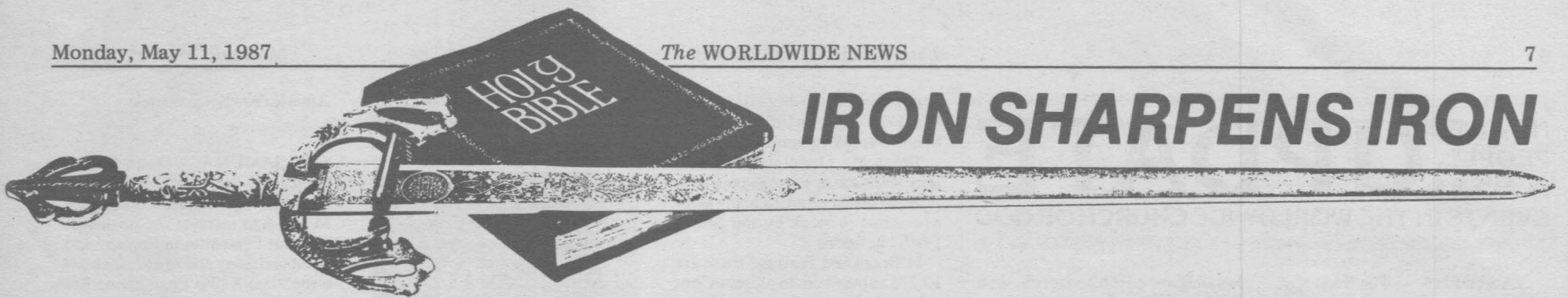
KUTUNSI, GHANA



LAGOS, NIGERIA



LAGOS, NIGERIA



IRON SHARPENS IRON

Counting Pentecost correctly: On which Sunday does it fall?

By Michael Morrison

This year God's Church will observe Pentecost June 7. Jewish synagogues will observe June 3. Why this difference?

Michael Morrison is an editorial assistant for The Plain Truth.

God has seven annual Holy Days. Six are on the same date every year according to the Hebrew calendar. They vary, of course, on the Roman calendar from year to year.

Pentecost, however, must be counted. "And you shall count for yourselves from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you

brought the sheaf of the wave offering: seven Sabbaths shall be completed. Count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath; then you shall [observe the Feast of Firstfruits]" (Leviticus 23:15-16, New King James throughout).

Jews and Christians who spoke Greek came to call this Holy Day *pentekoste*, which means "fiftieth."

Counting to 50 is not the problem. The problem is understanding the starting point.

We are told to count "from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering." Although the wave offering is no longer offered by the Levitical priesthood, we do need to

understand the correct day to determine the date for Pentecost.

Which Sabbath?

The Pharisees interpreted "the day after the Sabbath" (as do Jews today) as the day after the first annual Sabbath of the Feast of Unleavened Bread — always on the 16th day of the first Hebrew month, Abib, no matter what day of the week it may be.

The Sadducees, most of whom were priests, said the wave offering should be made on the day after a *weekly* Sabbath during the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Hence always on a Sunday, not on a specific day of the month.

The correct meaning of "the Sabbath" becomes clear when we examine the context and the New Testament evidence.

The firstfruits wave offering pictured the resurrected Christ and His ascension into heaven to be accepted as the first of the firstfruits. He was resurrected Saturday evening, but He ascended to His Father in heaven on Sunday morning, as revealed by comparing John 20:17 with Matthew 28:9.

As the first of the spiritual firstfruits (I Corinthians 15:20), Jesus would have had to ascend on a Friday, the 16th of Abib, if the Pharisees' method of counting were correct. (The first annual Sabbath of Unleavened Bread was Thursday that year.) But He was not resurrected until Saturday evening, and He ascended into heaven on a Sunday morning — on the morrow after the *weekly* Sabbath!

So modern Judaism observes the wrong day. The Jews have pre-

served the Hebrew calendar and Scriptures, but do not fully understand those Scriptures. God's Church, inspired by His Spirit, understands the Scriptures and the correct use of the Hebrew calendar.

Which Sunday?

In most years, only one Sunday falls during the Feast of Unleavened Bread; therefore that Sunday is clearly the day the firstfruits should have been offered.

But when the Feast of Unleavened Bread starts on a Saturday evening and ends on a Saturday evening, should the firstfruits wave offering be on Sunday the first day of the Feast, or Sunday the day after the seventh day of the Feast?

We can find the answer in Joshua 5:11. The Israelites, after entering the land of Canaan, "ate of the produce of the land on the day after the Passover." The Authorized Version says they ate "old corn," but "old" is not in the Hebrew text.

In Canaan, grain ripened in the spring, and the Canaanites would have harvested it as soon as they could. However, they were preparing for a siege, and the new grain was just coming ripe. Therefore, all their old grain would long since have been harvested and stored in the city. The Israelites were eating newly harvested grain on the day after the Passover.

Since eating new grain was permitted only after the firstfruits wave offering (Leviticus 23:14), we can deduce that the firstfruits wave offering had been that very morning of the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, which that year was a Sunday. As they offered the firstfruits on the Sunday *during* the Feast, the Feast must have begun that year on the first day of the week.

To determine the correct date for Pentecost, we must count beginning with the Sunday during the Feast of Unleavened Bread. The day of the wave offering, the Sunday during the Feast of Unleavened Bread, was day one. Day seven was a weekly Sabbath. Day 49 would be the seventh Sabbath, and the 50th day would be a Sunday, "the day after the seventh Sabbath." Pentecost is therefore always on a Sunday. In 1987, it is June 7.

Pastor's wife dies, set 'tremendous example'

By Jeff E. Zhorne

PASADENA — Alice Ione Reyer, 51, wife of James Reyer, pastor of the Pasadena Imperial A.M. congregation, and a native of Indiana, died at 7:45 p.m., April 17, after a long bout with cancer.

Services were conducted by evangelist Larry Salyer, director of Church Administration, April 22, at Mountain View Cemetery in Altadena, Calif. About 350 Church and family members attended.

Mr. Salyer said that Mrs. Reyer was a "tremendous example to us all. I hope we can profit from that example."

"I was always amazed that I would walk into her room, and in spite of her condition, Mrs. Reyer always looked up and smiled and said, 'Hi, Larry,'" he added.

At about noon April 16, Mr. Reyer asked Mr. Salyer to drop by his house to pray for Mrs. Reyer.

"Jim said, 'Alice and I have been talking, and we feel like we have to have an answer, one way or the other, because she cannot continue to endure the kind of pain and trial she's going through.'

"It's just something that neither of us can handle. We need an answer. We've talked about it, and Alice said that she would really just be happy if God would let her die. So if you don't mind anointing her again and praying with me, I would very much appreciate that.'

"So we prayed for her," Mr. Salyer said.

Enduring example

"Of course, she was very alert and very sharp, has been all along, although she's been in a tremendous amount of pain," he continued.

"When I walked into the room, I certainly did not expect that she would be able to say anything. And I was almost overwhelmed, because, again, she smiled and said, 'Hi,

Larry.' It was just amazing to me.

"So Jim and I knelt down by her bed and prayed for her for some time and asked God to simply grant her relief one way or the other," Mr. Salyer related.

"And if it was His will that she die at this time, to let that come speedily and without a great deal of



ALICE IONE REYER

trauma. Mrs. Reyer said, 'Thank-you, very much,' when we finished praying.'

Thirty hours later she died, about 15 minutes into the Friday evening Bible study, which was on the hope of the resurrection, conducted by evangelist Richard Ames.

"I do feel that God certainly did hear our prayers, collectively, as well as that particular prayer," Mr. Salyer said.

"She obviously did talk to Mr. Reyer right up to the end," he added. "They had some very fine conversations. And she went rather peacefully, considering the circumstances."

Mr. Salyer said that ministers and close family friends dropped by after Bible study, "and Mr. Reyer appreciated that very much."

Because of Mrs. Reyer's condition, the Reyers were transferred to Pasadena from Denver, Colo., in

September, 1986.

According to Selmer Hegvold, an associate pastor of the Imperial A.M. church: "The whole congregation was looking forward to Mr. Reyer having his wife by his side, assisting and helping him and adding to the impact of his ministry. God had other plans for her."

"They were both very dedicated and very strong through this whole trial, which lasted four years," said Curtis May, an Imperial A.M. associate pastor. "I talked to Mr. Reyer a lot. His mind was on the Kingdom, and hers was too."

Compassionate woman

"I tell you, Mrs. Reyer had tremendous compassion," said Les McCole, pastor of the Long Beach, Calif., East and West churches and a family friend.

"Alice is remembered here in Fort Wayne [Ind.] as a dedicated and gracious lady," said Darris McNeely, Fort Wayne pastor. "Her concern and love for the brethren left its mark."

"I remember talking with Alice

at the refreshing program in 1984," he continued. "She was asking about the health and welfare of many of the members here. I was struck by the genuine concern she showed for them. To me it was a living example of having 'in her tongue the law of kindness.'"

"She was everything Mr. Salyer said — very uplifting and beautiful," said Betty Smith, a member who attends the Imperial A.M. church who, along with others, assisted Mrs. Reyer in her final months.

"It was rare she would talk about her own pain," she added. "I was there the day before she died, and it was very inspiring yet heartbreaking. And she still had the smile."

Mrs. Reyer is survived by her children, Lori Jo Sexton, Daniel and Rhonda, Church members; her mother, Emma Jane Gibford, stepfather, Royce Gibford, and sister, Ruth Ann Hyndman; two brothers, Paul and Charles Easley; a half-brother and half-sister, Richard Easley and Betty Leamon; and three grandchildren.

BE READY TO GIVE AN ANSWER

HOLY SPIRIT

What the Holy Spirit is:

- The Holy Spirit is the power of God (Luke 1:35). It is God's mind, energy, motivation and nature. The Holy Spirit is the force by which God creates (Genesis 1:2, Job 26:13), begets us as His children (Ephesians 2:18-22), inspires us (John 14:16-17), imparts His mind to us (I Corinthians 2:11-12) and performs works that would be impossible physically (Zechariah 4:6).

What we must do to receive the Holy Spirit:

- The Holy Spirit is a gift of God (Acts 10:45, 11:17).
- We must repent of our sins and be baptized (Acts 2:38).
- We must obey God (Acts 5:32).
- We must ask for it (Luke 11:13).

What the Spirit does in our lives:

- It begets us with eternal life (Romans 8:9-11, I John 5:11-13) and makes us part of God's family (Romans 8:16). It adds us to the Church (I Corinthians 12:13).

- It gives us God's mind and helps us to be spiritually, not carnally, motivated (Romans 8:8-9). It helps us understand spiritual things (I Corinthians 2:9-11). It guides us into truth (John 16:13).
- It gives us the power to obey God (Acts 1:8).
- It gives us spiritual gifts (I Corinthians 12:4, 8-10).

How to use the Spirit:

- We must seek to be filled with it (Ephesians 5:18).
- We must stir it up (II Timothy 1:6).
- We must act as the Spirit prompts us (Romans 8:1, 5, 13).

Can we lose the Spirit?

- The Spirit can be grieved (Ephesians 4:30).
- The Spirit can be quenched (I Thessalonians 5:19).
- The Spirit will not remain in us if we continue to sin (I Samuel 16:14). God will actually take it from us if we refuse to repent and do not keep striving to obey Him (Psalm 51:11).

ATTENTION CHURCH YOUTHS

The Worldwide News would like to feature Church youths who are 1987 valedictorians and salutatorians. If you are graduating first or second in your class, send us your name, and include a recent photo, the name of your high school, the city where it is located and your church pastor's signature. Please indicate your class ranking. (We will return photos accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.)

NEWS OF PEOPLE, PLACES & EVENTS IN THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

PASADENA — The Feast site in Eastbourne, England, has been changed to Camber Sands Leisure Park, 14 miles from Hastings, England, on the south coast.

Those accepted to Eastbourne will automatically be assigned to Camber Sands unless they notify the British Office otherwise. The site is closed to further transfer requests, according to the Festival Office here.

Feast sites in Bredsten, Denmark; Naro Moru, Kenya; and Caloundra and Perth, Australia; have reached capacity and can accept no further transfer requests.

There will be no site in Honiara, Solomon Islands, this year.

★ ★ ★

PASADENA — Church Administration released the following ordinations.

Joseph Tkach Jr., assistant director of Church Administration, was raised in rank to pastor on the first day of Unleavened Bread, April 14.

Three church pastors were raised to the rank of pastor: **Robert Smith**, Fort Worth, Tex., A.M. and P.M., Sabbath, April 18; and **Allen Bullock**, Dallas, Tex., East, and **Michael Swagerty**, Chicago, Ill., North and Northwest, on the last day of Unleavened Bread, April 20.

Kyriacos Stavrinides, a professor at Pasadena Ambassador College, was raised in rank to pastor on the Sabbath, April 25.

Mark Gully, pastor of the Bundaberg, Gympie and Maryborough, Australia, churches, was raised in rank to preaching elder April 6.

David Gilbert III, a local elder in the Toledo and Findlay, Ohio, churches; **David Gray**, a local elder in the Fort Collins, Colo., Scottsbluff, Neb., and Wheatland, Wyo., churches; and **Michael Greider**, a local elder in the Kenosha, Wis., church; were raised in rank to preaching elder on the first day of Unleavened Bread, April 14.

Mark Mounts of the Wichita, Kan., church, was ordained a local church elder on the first day of Unleavened Bread, April 14.

Carl Anderson, a deacon in the Seattle, Wash., church, was ordained a local church elder on the Sabbath, April 4.

Norman David, a deacon in the

Muskegon, Mich., church, and **William Winn**, a deacon in the New Bern, N.C., church, were ordained local church elders on the first day of Unleavened Bread, April 14.

William Behrer III, a deacon in the Nassau, N.Y., church, and **Milton Wilson**, a deacon in the Miami, Fla., North church, were ordained local church elders on the last day of Unleavened Bread, April 20.

★ ★ ★

PASADENA — The Spanish Department welcomed **Graham Davies**, a 19-year employee of Publishing Services, as a new employee in March.

Mr. Davies, who lived in Brazil for 11 years, will serve as managing editor of the Church's Portuguese-language literature. Portuguese is the official language in Brazil.

Twelve booklets and 12 reprint articles have already been translated into Portuguese, the eighth-largest language group in the world,

according to evangelist **Leon Walker**, regional director for Spanish-speaking areas.

"With Mr. Davies devoting full-time attention to Portuguese literature, we hope to have as many as 14 new items in stock by the end of 1987," he added.

In Brazil and Portugal there are 10,275 subscribers to all seven languages of *The Plain Truth*. Sixty-one percent receive the magazine in Spanish.

★ ★ ★

PASADENA — The 1986 Ambassador College *Envoy* was named best of category in the yearbook category of the Printing Industries of the Carolinas' annual contest. A plaque recognizing Ambassador College, *Envoy* designer **Ric McNair** and Hunter Publishing Co. was awarded to the college Feb. 11.

Printing Industries of the Carolinas represents printing companies on the East Coast and in the South, according to **Dennis Robertson**, director of Academic Publications. Yearbooks and other "coffee-table books" from across the nation were judged in the contest.

Photography, design and "the overall package" were judging criteria, Mr. Robertson said.

The award "signifies the highest

caliber of work in the yearbook area. We were up against books from some of the largest and most presti-

America's national contest.

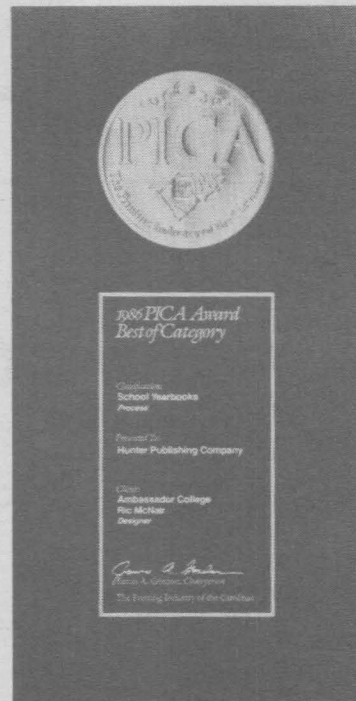
★ ★ ★

PASADENA — **John Prohs**, manager of Technical Operations & Engineering, traveled to Europe March 5 to increase the quality of sound at Feast sites in England and West Germany and to attend an International Audio Engineering Society Conference in London, England.

At the conference Mr. Prohs met with acoustical design leaders from Denmark, East Germany, England, the Netherlands and Switzerland. He also conducted an acoustical evaluation of the Paignton, England, Feast site with **Phil Halford**, audio and visual consultant.

Mr. Prohs conducted a class March 15 at the Bonn, West Germany, Office on sound system setup and operations for men who assist with audio in the Netherlands, Switzerland and West Germany. At the Bonndorf, West Germany, Feast site, Mr. Prohs made adjustments to the sound system.

In Vienna, Austria, Mr. Prohs met the chief engineer of Austrian Radio and was given a technical tour of the Musikverein and the Staatsoper, two of the finest acoustical halls in the world, according to Mr. Prohs.



YEARBOOK AWARD

gius universities," he said. "It's a much-sought-after award."

The *Envoy* will be judged in the fall in the Printing Industries of



"That also he should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad." (John 11:52)

PASADENA — While working in his garden, Donald Peiris, a member who attends the Colombo, Sri Lanka, church, was bitten by the "most deadly type of viper in Sri Lanka," Mohan Jayasekera, Colombo pastor, reported in March.

"Usually a person bitten by such a viper falls into a coma in less than half an hour," Mr. Jayasekera said. "He was bitten around 6:30 in the evening, and when I anointed him it was well over an hour later. He suffered no ill effects from this at all."

"It was a wonderful demonstration of God's power and faithfulness and a strong witness to his mate who is not in the Church and his brothers and sisters, who have not been

very happy about Donald's involvement with the Church," he added.

Mr. Jayasekera also reported about Ranjith Wijerama, a member who is the senior assistant superintendent of a tea plantation.

While Mr. Wijerama and five other workers were returning to the plantation with the wages for all the employees (about one million rupees, equal to US\$40,000), they were hijacked by a group of terrorists on a lonely stretch of highway 20 miles north of Kandy.

The terrorists took the group as captives in Mr. Wijerama's jeep, Mr. Jayasekera said. When released about six hours later, everyone except Mr. Wijerama had gunshot wounds and stab injuries. Mr. Wi-

jerama was unharmed.

His pregnant wife and 9-year-old daughter were at home when the robbery occurred. "They did not know anything until Ranjith returned home very shaken but very thankful for God's protection.

"We do indeed serve a great God whose eyes go to and fro through the whole earth to show Himself strong to those of His family," said Mr. Jayasekera. "We do live in dangerous times on this little island."

George, South Africa, members

About 14 members and their families meet every three months for a Bible study in George, South Africa, about 300 miles (480 kilometers) from Cape Town, South Africa, according to Andre van Belkum, Cape Town pastor.

Since most members are unable to attend Sabbath services regularly, they receive taped services from the Cape Town and Port Elizabeth, South Africa, churches.

Only three members live in George itself. Most travel into the town for Bible studies from surrounding communities, said Mr. van Belkum.

The members are involved in various occupations. Mike and Lorraine Smith run an earth-removal business, and Pieter de Villiers operates his own home-repair business in a holiday resort about 80 miles (130 kilometers) from George.

Pieter Louwrens works in the research department of the Forestry Training College; Martin Arendse is a teacher at a high school in George; and Albert Abrahams works for a road-construction company.

"Others are pensioners [retirees] who have settled in the area because of its pleasant surroundings and climate," according to Mr. van Belkum.

"Even though scattered, these members have their hearts in God's work and feel very much a part of the worldwide family of God."

South-West Africa visit

Terence Browning, a minister in the Cape Town church, and his wife, Beverley, visited six members, three prospective members and two new people in South-West Africa (Namibia).

March 7 Mr. Browning conducted a Bible study, counseled with five members there and answered questions for three hours.

Four of the five members live in Windhoek and assemble on the Sabbath to listen to taped sermons

from the Cape Town church.

"As each of them, one man and four women, has a nonmember mate, their opportunities for real fellowship and sharing are limited," he added.

In Windhoek he also made contact with two young women of Portuguese descent, who fled from Angola with their parents.

"They had many questions regarding Sabbath and Holy Day observance and were encouraged to put their newly discovered knowledge into practice," Mr. Browning said.

He also visited three prospective members in the area and gave them guidance and encouragement in coming to baptism.

"The prayers of God's people for these isolated members and prospective members are certainly appreciated," said Mr. Browning.

Member's wife dies

The German Office reported that the wife of Viktor Przybyla from Poland "died suddenly and unexpectedly in the hospital" March 28. Mrs. Przybyla was not a member.

Mr. Przybyla is now left with six children at home, ranging from the ages of 7 to 21. His oldest daughter, Dora, was killed in a train accident four years ago.

Signing boosts understanding

Booklets interpreted for deaf

By Kerri Miles

PASADENA — Two booklets were interpreted in American Sign Language (ASL) and videotaped for the deaf by the Media Services Department March 18.

Administrative staff for the Church's deaf program signed the booklets.

The first booklet, signed by Brian Bettes, was *All About Water Baptism*, and the second, signed by Gerrie Leimbach, was *Does God Exist?* Robin Deraas will also sign for the tapings.

"The booklets are being taped to help deaf applicants for baptism. Their understanding of English syntax is limited, especially if they are prelingually deaf, deaf from birth," said Selmer Hegvold, director of the Church's deaf program and an associate pastor of the Pasadena Imperial A.M. church.

Other literature will be added as needed, said Mr. Hegvold. "We are trying to anticipate what the needs will be for the future."

Mr. Hegvold said that signing

helps the deaf understand the booklets more fully. Mr. Hegvold showed the water baptism tape to a prospective member who had difficulty understanding some of the concepts when she read the booklet. "When she saw it signed, her comprehension increased dramatically," he said.

The idea for videotaping the booklets came when a study at the College of Staten Island in New York showed that deaf people taking the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) scored 30 to 40 percent higher when the test was given in ASL than when they read it.

"Deaf people are intelligent and want to understand, but they cannot comprehend by reading" as well as hearing people do; Mr. Hegvold said.

The Church's deaf program began in 1979 with 35 deaf Church members and 25 interpreters. Now there are 132 deaf people attending services, including children, and 199 interpreters, trainees and signers, according to Mrs. Leimbach.

The videotaped booklets will go first to those preparing for baptism, Mr. Hegvold said. The tapes will be available to all deaf brethren on a loan basis from Pasadena. Church pastors can purchase copies for their church libraries from Media Services here.

The taping is done in two stages. First a reading of each booklet is taped, while an interpreter makes sure he or she is able to sign at the same pace as the reader. Garland Snuffer, who manages the Radio Production Department, provides the voice. Then the interpreter is videotaped.

Mr. Hegvold said that this year "one of our leading interpreters will be assigned to each U.S. Feast site. This will allow deaf brethren to go where they need to go. They will be free to go where they can afford to go."

An interpreter will also be assigned to the Niagara Falls, N.Y., site, administered by the Canadian Regional Office, Mr. Bettes said.

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