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Mr. Tkach in Europe: 'encouraging for all'

By Jeff E. Zhorne

PASADENA—"His gift of demonstrating warmth to people is hard to put into words," said evangelist Carn Catherwood, Italian regional director, describing Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach's July 13 to 26 trip to Belgium, England, Italy and Greece.

Mr. Catherwood, who met the pastor general in Sicily, said the Italian brethren greeted Mr. Tkach with traditional kisses.

"Perhaps that's less important to Anglo-Saxons, but brethren expressed warmth and Mr. Tkach expressed it right back. That really builds relationships."

Evangelist Dibar Apartian, regional director for French-speaking areas, who accompanied the pastor general to Belgium, said: "For the first time Mr. Tkach visited the European parliament in Brussels and the Belgian brethren

who are in the heartbeat of current events."

Belgium

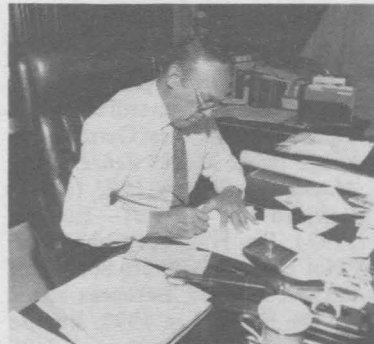
After a 13-hour flight in the British Aerospace Corp. (BAC) 111 jet, the pastor general began his trip in Brussels, Belgium. He was greeted July 14 by Jean Carion, Brussels and Liege, Belgium, pastor, his wife, Anne-Marie, and others.

Belgium is the second most densely populated country in Europe, yet it has one of the world's lowest birthrates.

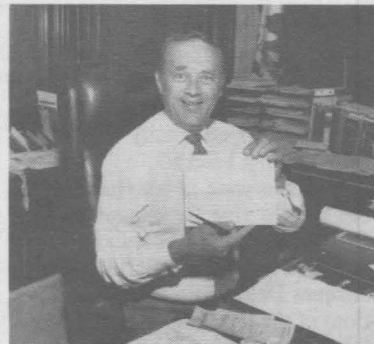
Slightly larger than the state of Maryland, Belgium maintains coastal dikes and seawalls to prevent tidal flooding.

In the afternoon Mr. Tkach and his traveling party toured the headquarters of the European Economic Community.

"It was interesting to understand



LAST PAYMENT—Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach signs and presents a check for the final payment on the Ambassador Auditorium to Leroy Neff, Church treasurer, July 27 (see "Personal"). [Photos by Warren Watson]



the complexities of translation and other problems the EEC has to work out in the world today," said Steve Bergstrom, remote operations engineer for the Church's television crew.

On the Sabbath, July 15, the pastor general spoke to 530 brethren from Lille, France, and Brussels and Liege.

Mr. Tkach's sermon was translated into French by Olivier Carion, Colmar and Metz, France, pastor, and recorded on cassette so all the French churches can hear it.

A leather-bound, three-volume

Bible printed in French in 1669 was presented to him, in addition to baskets of Belgian beer, beer cheese and stuffed Marsipulami animals.

Marsipulami is a cartoon character, Mr. Apartian explained, "a little Belgian for Mr. Tkach."

After visiting with brethren for more than two hours, Mr. Tkach was host at a dinner in his hotel.

The next day the group went by bus to Quievrain, where the release of 200,000 homing pigeons was canceled because of fog.

"We had to leave that day at 5:30 a.m., so it was a bit disappointing not to see the pigeons released," said Ellen Escat, Mr. Tkach's executive assistant.

While in Quievrain Mr. Tkach heard about a recent pigeon race over the Pyrenees Mountains in Spain. Some 25,000 pigeons were let go, but only 3,000 made it.

Pigeon racing is popular with hobbyists in Europe, especially in Belgium, but even there it's dying out, Mrs. Escat said.

Mr. Tkach, who raises pigeons, "has always thought of pigeons as a good hobby for Church youths," she added.

The group then stopped at St. Antonius Zoersel to visit the largest pigeon farm in Belgium. The Church's television crew obtained film footage of the visit.

After lunch Mr. Tkach went by bus to Fort Breendonk, a World War II concentration camp.

"Some people don't believe these camps exist," Mr. Tkach observed. "I wish those people could come and see."

Mr. Apartian continued to Dabo, France, site of the French Summer Educational Program (SEP).

(See EUROPE, page 3)

Spanish ministers report

Obstacles don't deter brethren

By Paul Monteith, Shane Granger and Cliff Worthing

PASADENA—Twenty-six Spanish-speaking ministers, two trainees and their wives were here for the 16th session of the Ministerial Refreshing Program July 19 to Aug. 1.

"The Spanish-speaking ministers attend every refreshing program together," said evangelist Leon Walker, Spanish regional director. Serving in 11 countries they "do not see each other between each refreshing program. So it's an opportunity for them to get together and talk about the Work and to socialize."

In addition to other scheduled activities, Mr. Walker and his wife, Reba, were hosts at a luncheon in their home for the Spanish ministry July 30.

Since the beginning of this year 124 people have been baptized. "Last year we had 255 baptisms, which broke the record of the year before," said Mr. Walker.

La Pura Verdad (Spanish Plain Truth) has a circulation of about 220,000 a month. To keep within budget, circulation will remain at this level for the present.

However, the Spanish Office plans "to increase circulation in those countries where we have ministers and diminish it in those areas where we do not have the manpower to serve the requests and needs of subscribers," Mr. Walker said.

The biggest problem facing members in Latin America is economic and political instability.

Hyperinflation affects members more than terrorism and guerrilla warfare, but they must be cautious when traveling on open highways and in rural areas, according to Mr. Walker.

Following are reports from some of the areas that the Spanish Office serves.

Mexico

Javier Flores, a two-year graduate of Ambassador College, is teaching English to Mexico City brethren in an Ambassador Foundation pilot program there.



THOMAS & JOANNA TURK

"We have 60 of our 350 brethren enrolled in the classes," said Thomas Turk, manager of the Mexico City Office. "The purpose of the program is to help brethren who have a desire to learn English."

"Many of them find it beneficial to their jobs and in communicating with other brethren at the Feast. We also try to help students prepare for Ambassador College by improving their English."

Mexican brethren face economic hardship. "It is difficult for them to have any money to live reasonably," Mr. Turk said. "They generally have a 'bare-bones' Feast because of the lack of sufficient funds."

El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras

Brethren in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras are faring well, according to pastor Herbert Cisneros. However, problems are still present.



HERBERT & CONCEPCION CISNEROS

"The situation between the guerrillas and the government is still heated," Mr. Cisneros said. "We also are concerned with rising inflation and the economy."

Salvadoran men face a military draft. According to the Salvadoran constitution all males must bear arms when the country is in military conflict, according to Mr. Cisneros.

"But it is not yet a law," Mr. Cisneros said. There are two ways men in El Salvador will not be drafted if the law is passed.

"If you are the only man in the house, they will allow you to stay and take care of your family. But if there are two men, the other will be required to sign up," he said.

"The second way is to be a student in a university. Then you are allowed to continue your studies and not join the military."

(See SPANISH, page 4)

PERSONAL FROM

Joseph W. Tkach

Dear Brethren,

I am pleased to announce that, after a 15-year mortgage, we have paid off the Ambassador Auditorium.

I signed the check for the last payment two weeks ago.

A hearty thank-you for your contributions to and support of the building fund. Your sacrifice and dedication to God's Work are greatly appreciated.

However, when one such building is paid off, half a dozen other needs crop up immediately because of the growing and expanding Work.

The building fund is used specifically for payments on financed properties and buildings. It is also used for repair and improvements, and any new building purchases or projects the Work may need to undertake, such as a television facility.

The building fund is a vital aspect of the Work.

As the Church continues to grow in understanding and practicing the way of life taught by example and proclaimed in word by Jesus Christ, all of us, as his disciples, must never fail to take our priceless calling seriously.

I have written and spoken often on this subject and, as long as I am able, will never cease to place the focus on this fundamental obligation for all true Christians.

Millions of Christians have lost the understanding that God's indescribable grace toward his servants carries with it the

responsibility to give up all and follow him! God's magnificent grace has been viewed by these people as a license to stay just as they are, rather than as a powerful compulsion to turn their whole life over to God in obedient service. Most have viewed the fact that humans are indeed saved by grace, not by works, as evidence of God's great love for mankind. They are willing to accept his love without giving love in return. They are willing to take what has been made available to undeserving human beings, and carry on with no sense of grateful appreciation that exceeds mere momentary emotion.

God's love, by its very nature, demands love in return. His gift to us is so precious, so valuable, so dear and priceless, that only the most unperceiving and ungrateful individuals could just accept it and then simply set it on the shelf to use at their own convenience. Only those who have no real concept of what a pearl of great price God's love is, could accept it and then simply put it aside as some kind of insurance policy to pull out at the judgment.

Yet that is exactly what many today have inherited as their understanding of the grace of God. The concept of a daily struggle with sin, making sacrifices and changes in one's life to serve, please and obey the great giver of this extraordinarily invaluable gift is seldom seriously considered.

The reality of a total surrender (See PERSONAL, page 7)

INSIDE

Tracing roots of 'European home' 2

Put this letter to work! 4

Europe trip in pictures 5

True roots of 'common European home'

PASADENA—The sweeping changes in the political landscape of Europe are increasingly expressed in architectural terminology.

The most common phrase is that coined by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, who repeatedly calls for the creation of a "common European home."

Economics plays a major role in Mr. Gorbachev's concept. In his book, *Perestroika*, he wrote, "the building of the 'European home' requires a material foundation—constructive cooperation in many different areas" (page 204).

In a speech to the Council of Europe, the Soviet leader further defined what he called "the economic content" of the common European home.

"We regard as realistic," he explained, "the prospect of the emergence of a vast economic space from the Atlantic to the Urals where the Eastern and Western parts would be strongly interlocked."

U.S. President George Bush won applause in Europe with his own slogan of "a Europe whole and free." But this idea is somehow not as original and intriguing as the common home concept.

Hella Pick wrote in the July 14 *Guardian*: "If imagery alone counted in the superpower skirmishing over Europe's future, then Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev would win hands down with his 'Common European Home.' The West has read-

WORLDWATCH

By Gene H. Hogberg



ily taken to discussing its architecture, its furnishing, even the rules that would govern the administration of the condominium. The Bush doctrine... is not easily translated into building bricks."

Not everyone is convinced that the time is ripe for expanding the European house eastward. European Commission (EC) President Jacques Delors said that the 12 nations of the EC should "take care of [their] own house" before building a broader European house to include the Poles, Hungarians and others.

In truth, the EC has its hands full just trying to implement the procedures necessary to achieve its own end-of-1992 internal market on time.

The economic and political structures of the Eastern European countries are far below EC entry level.

As Mark Frankland wrote in the July 16 *Sunday Observer*: "Do we really have a picture of a European house in which, under the attic, there are cozy rooms prepared, names painted on each door, for the

poor cousins we long to welcome back from exile?"

Otto von Habsburg, too, believes that much work must still be done in the West. In his latest German-language book, *Macht Jenseits des Marktes—Europa 1992* (Power Beyond the Market—Europe 1992), Dr. Habsburg observed: "Not even the western section of the much quoted 'European home' will be finished in 1992. But we want to work on it with our might, so that it will be ready for moving in by December 31 of this year that is mentioned so often."

But the needs and desires of the East Europeans, Dr. Habsburg stressed, must eventually be accommodated.

"One of these days the middle and east Europeans are going to belong to us," he added. "The call for self-determination from Lithuania [in the Soviet Union] to Croatia [in Yugoslavia] and beyond is heard today... Our Europe is to become a real home for all her people—that is a true Grand Europe."

Looking at the European house

under construction, there is a remarkable parallel to what God is doing today. The analogy of a great house also applies to the government of the World Tomorrow.

"In my Father's house," Jesus told his disciples (and all those who would follow him since that time), "are many rooms," meaning offices of responsibility. "I am going there to prepare a place for you... I will come back and take you to be with me" (John 14:2-3, New International).

Jesus Christ is putting together his spiritual Temple, the embryo of the government of the World Tomorrow. It is no coincidence that before he began his earthly ministry, Jesus' profession was that of a master carpenter.

Unlike human political organizations, God's house is being built according to fool-proof blueprints. We are privileged to be "fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God," being built on the "foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone" (Ephesians 2:19, 20, New King James, except where noted).

In contrast, the design of the European house lacks apparent definition. "We are building a federal Europe though we're not sure exactly what it is," admitted Mr. Delors' chief of staff, Pascal Lamy.

"We're putting up the walls and other bits and pieces of a house even though we don't have a blueprint for what it's supposed to look like when it's done."

Actually, there is a set of unseen, previously used blueprints that the builders of the new Europe are not aware they are conforming to.

"That which has been is what will be," we are told in Ecclesiastes 1:9. "There is nothing new under the sun." The foundation of the new Europe, and much of Western society, is nothing new.

Europeans themselves seem to sense this. In the previous "Worldwatch" column, was a poster illustrating Europeans today rebuilding the Tower of Babel. (The illustration, incidentally, was copied from the 1563 painting by the Flemish artist Pieter Brueghel titled *The Building of the Tower of Babel*.)

God stopped that first attempt at achieving godless unity by scrambling the people's language. But the ideal of Babylon was far from finished. It was reborn as a great empire.

Regarding its proud king, Nebuchadnezzar, and in a larger symbolic sense, Babylon itself, the dream, interpreted by Daniel, recorded: "Chop down the tree... Nevertheless leave the stump and roots in the earth, bound with a band of iron and bronze" (Daniel 4:14-15).

Not being totally uprooted, this meant that Babylon would reappear. (See *ROOTS*, page 3)



Just between friends

By Dexter H. Faulkner

Success from mistakes

Have you ever made a big mistake—I mean a really big one that you've since repented of in dust and ashes? Let me tell you the story of John Mark.

John Mark was your typical "Church kid." He was reared in a Church household. His home was used for many Church functions and activities, so John Mark knew a lot of the ministers personally. He had heard the teachings of Christ, and of the apostles. His mother was a leading member in the Jerusalem church and was highly respected.

John Mark was right there when important announcements were made. He had contacts most of us would never dream of having. And John Mark was liked and respected by the apostles as well. So much so that Paul and Barnabas asked him to accompany them on their first journey together to Antioch.

This was quite an honor. It would be like being invited to go on an overseas trip today with Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach. Only potentially more dangerous, because they didn't know quite what to expect. No one knew for sure how they would be received. Their lives were constantly in danger. Yes, John Mark was right in the middle of things.

Parting company

But something happened. We read about it in Acts 13:13—a small reference to an important event in John Mark's life. In the middle of the tour with Paul and Barnabas we read, "and John, departing from them, returned to Jerusalem" (New King James throughout).

John Mark left Paul and Barnabas before the trip was over. Scholars have speculated on why he left.

But, one thing for sure, Paul was angry with John Mark for doing it. He felt he had deserted his post.

Paul felt so strongly he refused to allow John Mark to accompany him on his next tour. Because of these strong feelings, Paul and Barnabas also went their separate ways. (Barnabas was John Mark's uncle.)

Suddenly, things didn't look so good for John Mark. He had lost favor with the man who was to be one of the greatest impacts on the New Testament church. It looked as if he was through. No longer could he be as close to the apostles.

But wait, the story doesn't stop there. John Mark realized he made a mistake. He knew it would be even harder to prove himself worthy to serve an apostle again. He had a mistake to live down and he knew he could do it. And he did.

Repentance does not mean grieving for past mistakes. That is dwelling in the past. Our duty is to dwell in the present and make today right, moving forward in our calling.

John Mark knew that to repent means to change one's mind about something. That is the true meaning of repentance. When a Christian realizes that something he or she has done, or perhaps the whole direction of life, has been wrong, and honestly resolves to change that conduct, he or she has repented.

The Bible makes true repentance an essential condition for any spiritual progress, and for the forgiveness of sin.

Christ said, "I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3).

Forget the past

Repentance does not mean griev-

ing for past mistakes. That is dwelling in the past. Our duty is to dwell in the present and make today right, moving forward in our calling. Worrying over past mistakes is remorse, and remorse can be a sin when it is a refusal to accept God's forgiveness.

John Mark repented and changed. He went on to become one of Paul's most helpful assistants. Notice what Paul said in II Timothy 4:11, "Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry." Paul actually requested John Mark's assistance. A far cry from once refusing to allow him to accompany him on a trip.

John Mark, or Mark as we know him, is also the author of one of the four gospels. Yes, Mark made a mistake. A big mistake, but he saw his mistake, repented of it, changed and returned to do a great work in the New Testament church.

Learn from John Mark. You, too, can return from your mistakes. There is no sin too big for God to forgive if you have a repentant attitude and you want to change.

Some make mistakes, deplore them, but keep right on making more. Others sing lullabies to them-

selves by blaming others for the blunders they personally make.

Some excuse themselves for their mistakes on the grounds that others do the same thing. Do you use any of these excuses? I hope not.

Growing Christians make mistakes, and out of these errors we build stepping-stones to success, to permanent inheritance in God's kingdom. Build permanent success by learning from mistakes. Be confident that God forgives and forgets.

Mistakes must be admitted, repented of and changed. Put your mistakes behind you and go forward. You too have a great work to do.



European Diary

By John Ross Schroeder

The unceasing spoilage of our suffering planet

BOREHAMWOOD, England—Here in "Mediterranean Britain" we have been absorbing the impact of unrelenting heat. High smog levels. Buckling railway tracks. Broken water mains. Falling water tables. Thriving salmonella. Tempers out of control.

Is this merely cyclical or does it have some connection with increased average global temperatures and a thinning ozone layer? No one knows the answer for certain. But in past ages we didn't have the question.

From across the Atlantic in America comes a report that "populations of many species of migratory birds, including some familiar American songbirds, are rapidly... declining, and tropical deforestation may be the primary reason."

War against environment

Humans make unceasing war against their own planet. Humankind may be characterized "by infantile obsessions, belligerent impulses, and holocaust-making skills."

Most disturbing is the impression that we are running out of that most precious quantity—time.

The United States entered the Great War of 1914 to 1918 in 1917. It entered World War II (1939 to 1945) in late 1941. But, nuclear technology has reduced decision time from two years to perhaps two hours—or even mere minutes. America won't be able to wait two or three years to decide whether to enter a war.

It was written in 1976 that "our earth is becoming less congenial to human life with each passing year."

And now, said the July 30 *Sunday Times*, "the greenhouse effect, with its threat of melting polar icecaps, altered world vegetation pat-

terns and dangerously higher ocean levels, could hit earth much sooner than expected, according to research by a high-powered group of British and American scientists."

The threats to mankind are becoming numberless and measureless.

Elephants, songbirds, the great apes, uncountable smaller species of both flora and fauna—extinction beckons.

Death of species

Asiaweek reported July 31: "We live in an age of mass extinction. Scientists say that each hour four species vanish from the planet."

And the foreign desk of the *Evening Standard* said July 30: "The hole in the life-protecting ozone layer over Antarctica has spread north across New Zealand and Australia, covering populated areas for the first time."

In summing up the planet's environmental plight, Flora Lewis wrote in the July 31 *International Herald Tribune*: "The warnings come in a barrage now: sick seas awash with suffocating algae; ultraviolet radiation due to ozone depletion; global warming; loss of topsoil (24 billion tons a year) as the population swells (by 86 million a year); loss of air-purifying forests. And they are beginning to be heard."

Yes, perhaps our hearing is better, but have we already run out of enough time to put things right?

As one British member of Parliament said: "We have, at most, a quarter of a century to make assessments and take action. The life of the planet may be at stake."

However, God has not lost control. A new way of accomplishing things will finally liberate planet earth from every disaster, from pollution and from all environmental dilemmas.

Europe

(Continued from page 1)

"I told them about Mr. Tkach's visit to Belgium, the concentration camp, and how moving it was," said Mr. Apartian.

On to England

From Brussels, Mr. Tkach and his traveling party flew to London. Greeting them were evangelist Frank Brown, British regional director, his wife, Sharon, and legal counsel Ralph Helge from Pasadena.

July 18 Mr. Tkach, evangelist David Hulme, vice president of the Ambassador Foundation, and others attended a luncheon and dinner at the Globe Theatre (see article, this page).

The next day Mr. Tkach conducted an annual general meeting at the British Office in Borehamwood.

That evening the group left for Catania, Italy.

Italy

Italy is mountainous with the Alps in the north and the Apennines forming an infertile spine down most of the peninsula.

Almost all Italians speak standard Italian, but many are bilingual, still maintaining their local dialects.

The island of Sicily, separated from mainland Italy by the Strait of Messina, is the largest Mediterranean island.

Here Mr. Tkach was met by Mr. Catherwood, his wife, Joyce, and other ministers.

July 20 the group toured Taormina, a city high on a terrace above the Ionian Sea.

"We could see the smoke coming out of the top of Mt. Etna a few miles away," said Mr. Catherwood. "The Catania church meets at the foot of the volcano, which must be 40 or 50 miles across. You can see hardened lava-flow in the city from past eruptions."

That evening 67 brethren, including Mr. Tkach's party, attended services in Catania. Some traveled five hours from the mainland of Italy to hear the pastor general.

"Mr. Tkach spoke about the importance of not just looking at world events, but preparing ourselves spiritually for Christ's return and the responsibility of our calling," said Daniel Bosch, pastor of the

Rome and Catania churches.

Mr. Bosch presented Mr. Tkach with a silver-plated relief of a ship. He related the gift to Paul's coming to the island of Sicily.

After services Mr. Tkach shook hands with the brethren, then stayed and chatted at a buffet until 11 p.m.

"Just a few years ago, I could never have imagined the pastor general coming through the area, when it was difficult enough just having a minister come through," said Angelo Di Vita, a longtime member.

Said Mr. Bosch's wife, Colomba: "Mr. Tkach added something to the church. He gave them something you cannot really put into words to create a family atmosphere."

July 21 the group left for Bergamo, Italy, accompanied by the Catherwoods, the Bosches, John Adams, supervisor of Ministerial Services for Italy, his wife, Ann, and Terri Conti, administrative assistant to Mr. Adams.

Bergamo, Milan, Venice

Touching down in Bergamo, the group was greeted by Clifton Veal, Milan, Italy, pastor, his wife, Connie, and others.

Friday afternoon activities included a stop by the suboffice in Bergamo, where Church literature is mailed.

At the office Mr. Tkach spoke with Michael Guidolin, accountant, Ford Burden, who handles mailing in the office, and his wife, Francesca, who works there part-time.

The group then went by bus to Milan, where Mr. Tkach conducted Sabbath services July 15 for 137 brethren from Milan with some visitors from Rome and Zurich, Switzerland.

"That breaks all attendance records, going back to the beginnings of the church three years ago," said Mr. Catherwood.

"Cliff Veal said every member he knew attended. We couldn't come up with anybody who was absent."

Mr. Tkach was later host at a dinner for ministers, deacons, deaconesses, their spouses and the office staff.

"It's very obvious that Mr. Tkach considers it a privilege to greet the brethren after services, and that's very encouraging for all of us," said Mrs. Veal.

July 23 Mr. Tkach and his party left for Venice.

Built on 118 islets within a lagoon, Venice is joined to the mainland by bridges. Gondolas and other boats are the only means of transportation.

Arriving at Marco Polo airport, the group was taken by water taxi to the city center. From there they saw the Doges' Palaces and the bell tower, and San Marco Square.

They ate lunch and took a tour of the canals and Rialto Bridge.

"Venice is a very beautiful and romantic city and well worth going to see," said Mrs. Escat.

Roots

(Continued from page 2)

pear. "For there is hope for a tree, if it is cut down, that it will sprout again. . . . Though its root may grow old in the earth, and its stump may die in the ground, yet at the scent of water it will bud, and bring forth branches like a plant" (Job 14:7-9).

Now notice what one European Commission official was quoted as saying in the July 27 *Wall Street Journal* about the increased powers being exercised by the Brussels-based commission: "It's like a tree. At first you can see the trunk shoot up, and now the roots and branches are extending in all directions very fast, anchoring it solidly."

Babylon is reforming rapidly—for its last manifestation (see Revelation 18:2,8). It has been almost

The group flew to Greece later that day.

Greece

Greece, formed of 2,000 islands, contains sparsely populated mountain areas covering about 75 percent of the land.

Mr. Brown met the group at the Hellinikon airport.

Monday morning, July 24, Mr. Tkach toured Athens sights by bus. In the evening he was dinner host for the five church members in Athens.

The members are Michael, Eva and Dimitri Moschidis, and Manuel Phoenix.

Mr. Phoenix, an American black from New Orleans, La., who sings in musical groups, sang at dinner, accompanied by a pianist.

Mr. Tkach also invited the members to a sound and light show at the acropolis, on which stands the Parthenon, a celebrated Doric tem-

ple built in the fifth century B.C.

"The members were extremely excited about Mr. Tkach's visit and invitation," Mr. Catherwood related.

"Here they were at the show with the pastor general sitting right in the middle of them," he added. "It'll be something they remember for a long time."

None of the members had seen the historical presentation, in which images of Persian battles were projected onto the Parthenon ruins.

On the way back from the acropolis the Greek members sang folk songs.

During a meal shared with the brethren, Mr. Tkach told the members that his wife's maiden name, Apostolos, is Greek.

Return home

July 25 Mr. Tkach and his party flew home.

Others traveling were executive

assistant Michael Feazell; Joseph Locke, vice president of the Ambassador Foundation for international affairs; Michael Rasmussen, administrative assistant; Julie Stocker, administrative assistant to Mr. Hulme; and Mr. Hulme's wife, Robin.

John Halford was on-site director of the television crew, and Gary Werings and Mr. Bergstrom were cameramen.

Serving as the BAC-111 flight crew were captain Ken Hopke, co-captain Lawrence Dietrich, engineer Dean Mohr, steward Jay Brothers and chef Terry Wiclawski.

Mr. Tkach wrote in the July 31 *WN* "Personal" how he was struck by how barriers of differing languages, cultures and races have been broken down by the power of the Spirit of God.

"The world at large knows no such unity," he said.

Project offers opportunities

Foundation assists theater

By David Hulme

LONDON—The Ambassador Foundation, through the presentation of a grant by Chairman Joseph W. Tkach, took a significant step forward in promoting international understanding here July 18.

Mr. Tkach established the foundation's involvement in rebuilding the Globe Theatre, where many of William Shakespeare's plays were first presented.

Evangelist David Hulme is vice president of the Ambassador Foundation.

Far from being merely a performing arts facility, the new Globe Theatre complex will include a cultural center and facilities for literary scholars to study Shakespeare's works.

Because of its reputation for excellence in the performing arts, the foundation was approached last year about its potential involvement in the project.

We carefully reviewed the details of the project with Mr. Tkach, and had several meetings with the project directors, including producer and filmmaker Sam Wanamaker.

Mr. Wanamaker, a lifelong student of Shakespeare, has long envisioned the reconstruction of the Globe, which was destroyed by fire from a prop cannon in the 1600s.

Church benefits

Ambassador Foundation, which is an extension of the Church's activities, generally provides funding to organizations that offer humanitarian and educational services.

The more we looked at the Globe Theatre, the more it appeared to

have broader potential for furthering the Church's Work in Europe.

Our involvement in this particular project will be seen in a very positive light by many individuals in decision-making roles.

The Globe will serve as an international cultural center for literary scholarship, with facilities open to faculty members of Ambassador College.

This extends the resources of the college and opens the way for distinguished literary scholars to lecture on the campuses.

Further, since the Ambassador Foundation is a sponsor of the reconstruction, Globe officials have reserved the theater for one annual production (beginning in 1992) arranged by the foundation.

This will expand our performing arts potential and will open other cost-effective means for the Church and foundation to serve.

In his acceptance of the first payment of the grant, Mr. Wanamaker said: "I have great pleasure in ac-

cepting this contribution from the Ambassador Foundation. I congratulate Mr. Tkach and vice president Hulme on their vision in recognizing that the International Shakespeare Globe Centre will be a major force for world peace through cultural and educational exchange."

100 nations participate

Mr. Tkach said: "By bringing together 100 nations in this project, the Globe Theatre brings us all a little closer together. And by working together, we can learn to understand each other a little better."

Officials from London's literary community, the Globe Theatre and the British Office attended the July 18 presentation. Individuals accompanying Mr. Tkach on his European trip (see article, page 1) were also present.

The presentation and a Globe-sponsored dinner in Mr. Tkach's honor offered opportunities for Church officials to explain the background of the Church and foundation.



LONDON GIFT—Producer and filmmaker Sam Wanamaker (center) presents Ambassador Foundation Chairman Joseph W. Tkach with a limited edition book, *The Solid Globe*, July 18 at the Globe Theatre construction site in London. Left, Sir David Orr, chairman of the trustees; right, David Hulme, Ambassador Foundation vice president.

Report from the Treasurer's Office

Jeroy Neff

PASADENA—Good increases in income occurred for May and June, but income for the month of July was 3.7 percent less than last July. This brought the year-to-date increase down from 3.8 percent at the end of June, to 2.9 percent at the end of July.

We again must be properly concerned about the work God has given to the Church. We need to pray urgently, and do whatever we can reasonably do, to correct the situation.

The Worldwide News

CIRCULATION 65,500

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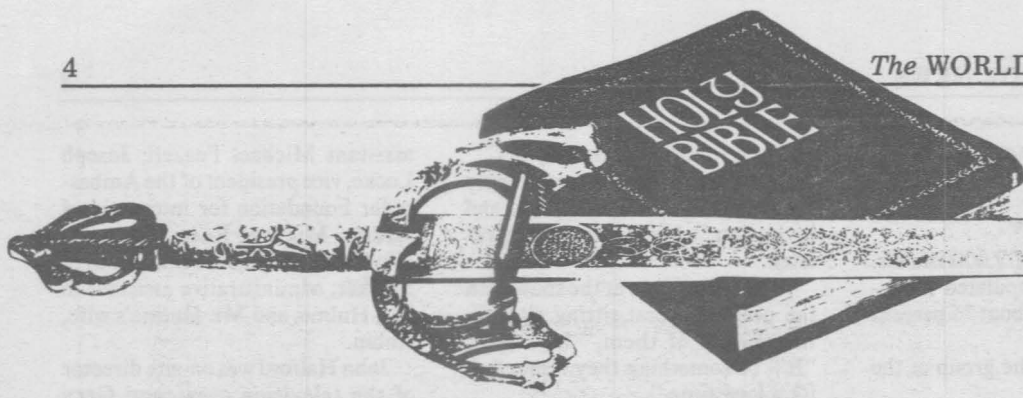
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IRON SHARPENS IRON

Put the member letter to work by following tested principle

By Philip Stevens

Every four weeks a letter from Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach is sent to Church members.

What do we do with that letter? Simply read it, fold it up, put it in a drawer and forget it? If so, we are missing an important opportunity to become more deeply involved in the Work of God.

Philip Stevens is a regular contributor.

What we need to do is take the information contained in those letters—every item of news, each detail about world trends, all the facts about the Church—and make them work hard for us. It's not enough to rely on our memories and hope we will recall a few of the points as we kneel down to pray. The chances are we'll forget most of the items.

Old Testament principle

What we must do is follow an Old Testament principle that will ensure we get the most from those letters, then give of our time and effort in our prayers for the Work.

In II Kings 19 is an account of the

king of Assyria threatening to invade Judah. He sent messengers with a letter stating his intentions to Hezekiah, king of Judah. But look what Hezekiah did when he received that communication:

"And Hezekiah received the letter from the hand of the messengers, and read it; and Hezekiah went up to the house of the Lord, and spread it before the Lord. Then Hezekiah prayed before the Lord" (II Kings 19:10-15).

The king realized there was more in that letter than he could deal with on his own, so he took it to the one who could work things out. And that's a principle we can follow when we receive a letter from God's Church.

By spreading out the letter before God as we pray, we will not only remember to pray about all the items in the letter, but pray with a fervency that might otherwise be lacking. It also enables us to beat our prayers small, so that they become like incense at God's throne (Revelation 5:8).

Let's look at a letter that was sent out earlier this year and analyze a small part of it in the way we might

do before God.

At the top of each letter is the name of the Church—the Worldwide Church of God. When we see that, do we appreciate the global

By spreading out the letter before God as we pray, we will not only remember to pray about all the items in the letter, but pray with a fervency that might otherwise be lacking.

scope of this Work? The letterhead should remind us that there are offices around the world supporting the Work. Do we remember the regional directors who are responsible to Mr. Tkach for their respective areas? If we don't know who those men are, refer to *The Family Album* sent from headquarters. And remember the important role of their wives.

Below the Church's name is the regional office address. Here we can thank God for the fine facilities he has provided. And let's remember

the people who work there—the ministers, the secretaries, the people who mailed out the letter.

A privilege

Next comes the salutation—"Dear Brethren." What a privilege to be called a brother or sister of Jesus Christ! Do we really appreciate our calling? Of the millions of people in the world, you and I have been specially chosen by the greatest source of power that exists. Can anything else match that opportu-

The paragraph goes on to explain that through Super Channel, 10 million homes in 15 countries now have access to the program. Are we concerned enough to pray that those people may respond to the message and request literature? We definitely should be—God is! We simply don't know whom God will call.

The principle should be clear. With the letter in front of us we can extract all kinds of information—generally more than enough for one or two prayer sessions. And, like Hezekiah, bring the details to the one who can work things out, no matter how the situation looks.

Future letters

Finally, pray that God will inspire the writing of the next letter. In the early days of the Work, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert W. Armstrong prayed over the mail sacks before taking them to the post office. We may not do that today, but we can do the next best thing—anticipate the letter and pray for a good response.

These letters are important. The member letters of the early New Testament Church became the Scriptures of today. While we can't say that the correspondence we receive carries the same weight of authority, these letters provide a vital tool in our—and the Church's—growth.

So the next time you receive a member letter, remember King Hezekiah, and bring the contents before God's throne.

Spanish

(Continued from page 1)

Although it may seem like a big problem for the brethren in El Salvador, the possibility of the draft is not as bad as it sounds. However, Mr. Cisneros asked that brethren "pray for us and our children."

Costa Rica

The church in Costa Rica is doing quite well, according to pastor Mauricio Perez. "Thanks to a stable government the members are experiencing little hardship in the country."

The church has an attendance of about 130 people, 60 of whom are baptized. Youth Opportunities United has just gotten started now that the youths are of YOU age.

Costa Rica is expecting about 180 brethren for the Feast—most from Costa Rica, and the rest from



MAURICIO PEREZ

Panama.

Puerto Rico

Fast growth and positive reactions is how Pablo Gonzalez, pastor of the San Juan, Puerto Rico, church, described the church in Puerto Rico.

The World Tomorrow airs in English four times each weekend in Puerto Rico.

"Most of the Spanish-speaking

world is not accustomed to watching television for religious information. They respond much better to the printed word. We rely on advertising in magazines such as the *Reader's Digest*. *The Plain Truth* and the booklets bring in tremendous new responses," he said.

"There are more new people coming to church for the first time who have teenagers," Mr. Gonzalez said. "They are coming into the age where they are responsible for their



PABLO & AUREA GONZALEZ

own beliefs, and sometimes their beliefs conflict with those of their newly called parents."

Colombia

Violence has increased in Colombia from drug traffickers and anti-government guerrillas.

Members have witnessed acts of violence, some narrowly escaping injury, while others have had to move out of areas controlled by guerrillas or drug traffickers. At least three members have sold businesses and homes and moved to escape danger, according to Eduardo Hernandez, pastor of the Bogota, Colombia, church.

The economic plight of members in Colombia is also a problem. Inflation is about 28 percent and most members are living at a basic level. Some members do not have enough money to attend the Feast of Tabernacles so they save extra money so

they can go. The Church helps many get to the Feast.

However, the Church continues



EDUARDO & MARIA HERNANDEZ

to grow. *Pura Verdad* lectures March 26 and April 2 brought 219 new people. Of those, five people now attend services regularly in Bogota.

Venezuela

"We expect a lot of growth in the coming months," said Salvador Barragan, pastor of the Caracas and Barquisimeto, Venezuela,



SALVADOR & MARIA BARRAGAN

churches. "We are going to try to increase the circulation of *La Pura Verdad* this year and would appreciate prayers for more growth."

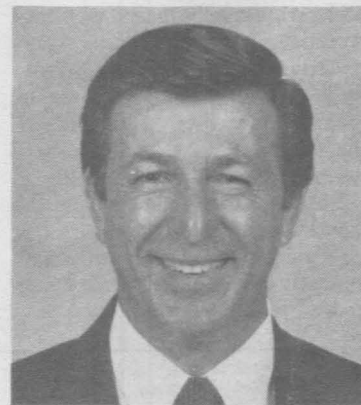
The Barquisimeto church is in a poor region. Many of the members are unemployed or underemployed,

according to Mr. Barragan. High prices make it difficult for them.

Many women in Caracas have nonmember mates, some of whom are unsympathetic to the Church. This presents some problems because they can't stay to fellowship after services or be involved in church activities as much as they would like.

Argentina

In spite of the present economic problems "Argentines haven't felt for the moment the impact of hy-



ALBERT SOUSA

perinflation," said Albert Sousa, pastor of the Buenos Aires, Argentina, and Salto, Uruguay, churches.

"The problems are only now beginning, but members have lived with inflation for many years and have learned to cope."

One result of the social and economic crisis is unity—members have seen the need to cooperate and have learned to work as a team to help each other.

"Those who can, grow vegetables, others bake bread, which they distribute among themselves," said Mr. Sousa. "When you are in a critical situation and your brother is in need you learn the meaning of being a family."

"What Argentina needs most is peace and quiet, . . . so that God's Work can be done here," explained

Mr. Sousa. "And God is listening to our prayers."

"Had this kind of inflation taken place at any other time we would have had social chaos or revolution. Amazingly things are calm."

Argentina's problems have created a spirit of uncertainty among the people and this has led to an interest in the country's future. People now respond more favorably to our Bible lectures than they have in the past," said Mr. Sousa.

Chile

This is a transition year for Chile, politically and in the church.

"We would appreciate the prayers of members for stable, calm



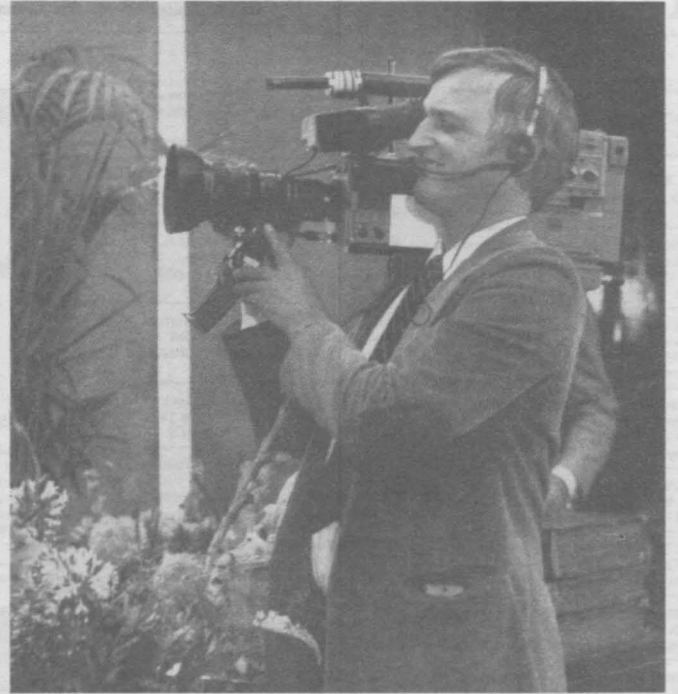
MARIO & CATALINA SEIGLIE

political elections" in December, said Mario Seiglie, pastor of the Santiago and Temuco, Chile, churches.

The church in Santiago is growing, according to Mr. Seiglie. Many young couples are coming into the church and adding leadership and dynamism to the congregation. Three people from Chile were accepted to Ambassador College this year.

God has been blessing the Bible lectures in Chile for the past seven years. Mr. Seiglie conducted lectures March 25 and 26 and April 1 and 2 in Santiago for 200 new people.

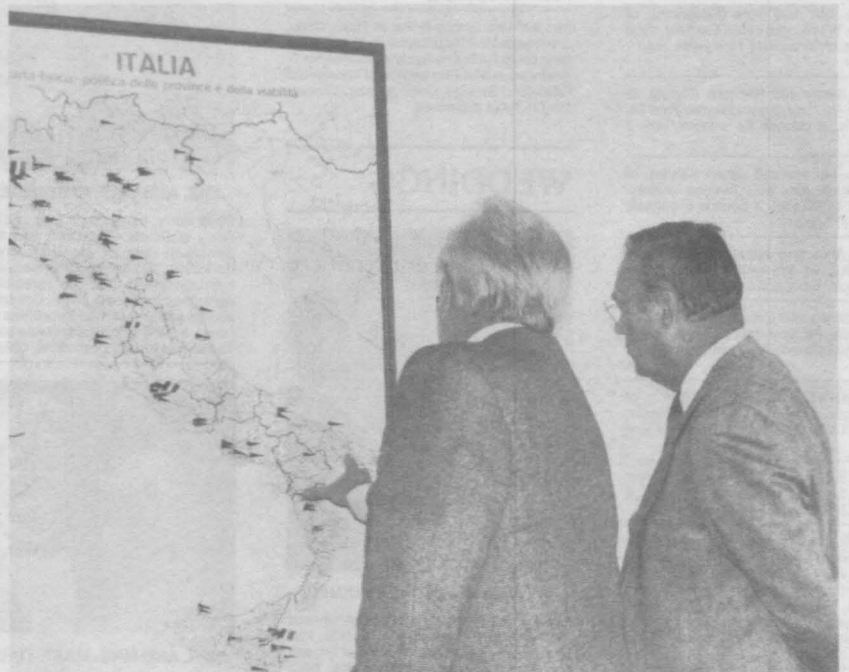
(See SPANISH, page 8)



Europe: Appreciating differences



UNIFYING VISIT—"Differences should be sources of mutual respect and appreciation," wrote Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach, after his July 13 to 26 trip to England and Europe. Clockwise from top left: singing "J'ai cherche l'Eternel" ("I Sought the Eternal") in Brussels, Belgium; cameraman Gary Werings in Brussels; Mr. Tkach with Dibar Apartian (center), French regional director, in a receiving line in Brussels; children in the Catania, Italy, church; Carn Catherwood, Italian regional director, and Mr. Tkach see map in the Bergamo, Italy, suboffice showing concentration of Italian members; Andrea (left) and Stefano Di Vita in Sicilian folk costumes with brethren in Catania; Mr. Tkach with Clifton Veal, Milan, Italy, pastor; Greek members (from left) Manuel Phoenix, Michael and Eva Moschidis and son, Stephanos, Mr. Tkach, prospective member Nick Gounaridis, Frank Brown, British regional director, and Dimitri Moschidis. Below, four sisters—Silvia, Vera, Chiara and Marilena Derrigo—sing "We're Family" in English and Italian in Milan. [Photos by Torney van Acker, Michael Guidolin, Michael Rasmussen and Martel Therese]



ANNIVERSARIES MADE OF GOLD

(Continued from page 6)



MR. AND MRS. THOMAS RITCHIE

Two couples, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Ritchie of Drum, Irish Republic, and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Percy of Templemore, Irish Republic, were honored at a reception after Sabbath Services July 1 in Dublin, Irish Republic. Both couples were married June 7, 1939. Mr. and Mrs. Ritchie, Church members since 1967, have four children and nine grandchildren. Their daughter, Heather Evans, is also a Church member. The Percys have two children, five grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Mrs. Percy has been a Church member since 1964, and the couple's daughter, Lyla Fryday, is also a member.



MR. AND MRS. JACK BAKER



MR. AND MRS. JOHN COOPER

Mr. and Mrs. John Cooper celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary July 15. They were honored by the Santa Barbara, Calif., congregation with a reception after Sabbath services June 24. The Coopers have four children and three grandchildren. Mrs. Cooper has been a Church member since 1971, and Mr. Cooper since 1972.



MR. AND MRS. ROBERT KOEHN

Jack and Ruth Baker and Robert and Irene Koehn were honored for their 50th wedding anniversaries at a Spokesman Club ladies' night June 17 in Ocala, Fla. The theme for the evening was marriage and the family, and about 80 friends attended. Mr. and



MR. AND MRS. BILL TURNEY

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Turney celebrated their

Mrs. Baker were married June 17, 1939. Mr. Baker was baptized in 1967, and Mrs. Baker in 1970. The couple have two daughters, Arlene and Sharon; a son, Jon, who also attends services; and one grandson, William. Mr. and Mrs. Koehn were married July 15, 1939. They were baptized in 1965.

MR. AND MRS. THOMAS FAUNCE

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Faunce were hon-

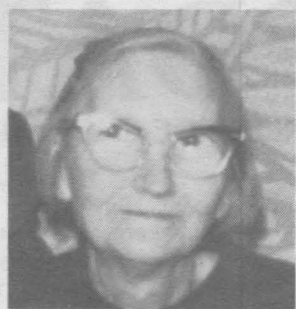
ored by Santa Barbara, Calif., brethren with a reception after Sabbath services June 24. The Faunces celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary July 7. They have two children and four grandchildren. Mr. Faunce is a local elder in the Santa Barbara church, and Mrs. Faunce is a deaconess.



MR. AND MRS. RALPH WOLFGANG

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Wolfgang celebrated their 57th wedding anniversary Aug. 6. Mr. Wolfgang was baptized in 1978, and Mrs. Wolfgang in 1985. The couple, who attend the Bethlehem, Pa., A.M. church, have three sons, three daughters, 18 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

ters, two brothers and four step-grandchildren.



VELMA McLIND

McLIND, Velma, 78, of Athena, Ore., died May 25 after a short bout with cancer. Mrs. McLind, a Church member since 1962, was preceded in death by her husband, also a member. She is survived by a son, Victor; two daughters, Mary Clarkson and Jenny Sanford; 16 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and one sister, Eva Beaver.

MCCULLEY, Mervyn Roy, 48, of Trenton, Mo., died June 5 of cancer and a massive stroke. Mr. McCulley, a Church member since 1975, is survived by his wife, Martha Louise, also a Church member.

PETERSON, Ruth Anne, 88, of Bloomington, Ill., died July 11 in Chenoa, Ill. Mrs. Peterson, a Church member since 1973, is survived by one brother and one sister.

MEAD, Leonard R., 84, of Olathe, Kan., died July 7. Mr. Mead, a Church member since 1953, is survived by his wife of 15 years, Bea, also a Church member; four children; 10 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

HALE, Wilma, 83, of Sumiton, Ala., died June 30. Mrs. Hale, a Church member for 18 years, is survived by two sons, Jerry and Robert; six daughters, Betty Patton, Eloise Hill, Geraldine Phillips, Irene Freeman, Imogene Phillips and Mary Bearsdorf; 20 grandchildren; 29 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

BRAMHALL, W. Ramon, 86, of Lebanon, Mo., died June 26. Mr. Bramhall, a Church member since 1958, is survived by his wife, Kathleen; a daughter, Peggy McDonald; and five grandchildren. He was preceded in death by one daughter, Ginger Ann Maclemore.



TEO POH CHIM

TEO, Poh Chim, 48, of Kota Bharu, Malaysia, died June 25 of liver cancer. Mr. Teo, a Church member since 1967, is survived by his wife, Sandy, also a Church member, and four daughters, Lee-Na, Lee Hoon, Lee Leng and Lee Yong.

Policy Reminder

Please remember that all engagement and obituary announcements must include a ministerial signature.

Rafting, fishing, packing: pioneering first Alaska SEP

By Daniel DeJarnette

WASILLA, Alaska—"I'm sure some of you will have some stories to tell for the rest of your lives," said Kermit Nelson, who coordinates Youth Opportunities United (YOU) in Church Administration.

He was talking to the 120 campers and staff members who pioneered the first Summer Educational Program (SEP) at King's Lake, Alaska, June 21 to July 11.

Daniel DeJarnette is editor of the Pasadena Portfolio, the Ambassador College student newspaper.

Campers took daylong and overnight rafting trips on the nearby Kenai River, which is noted for salmon fishing. All of the boys'

dorms and seven girls backpacked 2½ days along the Crow Pass Trail through Eagle River Valley in the Chugach National Forest. The camp also featured all-terrain cycling and beach volleyball.

Campers stayed in cabins without electricity, took cold showers and faced swarms of mosquitoes and long days. Sunset was between 11:30 and 11:45 p.m.

But, at the end of the camp when Jim Turner, camp director, asked how many would like the camp to be extended five days in spite of these adversities, the vote was a unanimous "Yes."

Mr. Turner's address was not on the imperfections of the SEP, but on its benefits.

"You have been an exceptional group, and I want to commend

you," he told the campers. "You've worked together well and handled yourselves well in sometimes difficult and unpleasant circumstances."

Joseph W. Tkach Jr., associate director of Church Administration for the United States, and Dr. Nelson visited the camp, about 45 miles north of Anchorage, Alaska.

Dr. Nelson arrived from the SEP in Orr, Minn., July 5. Addressing campers and staff, he noted another unique aspect of the Alaskan site.

"Not only do you have the hiking, backpacking, the rafting, the all-terrain biking and beach volleyball," he said, "but you have this magnificent scenery. It's beautiful in Orr, but Orr isn't surrounded by the majestic mountains you have here."

being of others. They are devoted to service, to love. They are concerned about the consequences of their actions. They care about how they affect other people.

They are dependable. They are trustworthy. They are honest. And they possess an indomitable hope and confidence in the face of trial, disaster or persecution.

They know the supreme joy and assurance that come from the Holy Spirit opening their understanding to God's magnificent mercy and love, and from true surrender to his will.

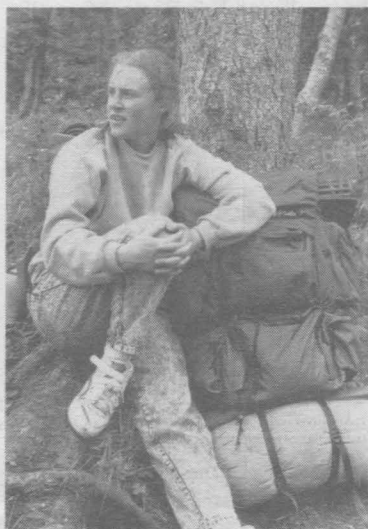
We must be ever vigilant to avoid the wide ditches on either side of the strait and narrow way to which God has called us. We must not drift into the narrow-minded arrogance of legalism, nor can we allow ourselves to slide into the careless and unconcerned deception of failing to take sin seriously.

The Feast is now only a few weeks away. Remember in prayer the ministers who will be speaking. I'm sure you are looking forward as I am to the exciting and inspiring spiritual rejuvenation that God gives us at the Feast each year!

Thank you, brethren, deeply, for your faithful prayers and support.



ALASKAN ADVENTURE—A 2 1/2-day backpacking trip was one of the activities at the Summer Educational Program in Alaska June 21 to July 11. Teddi Miller (right) of Los Gatos, Calif., takes a break along the trail. [Photos by Daniel DeJarnette]



Mr. Tkach Jr. arrived July 7. During his three-day stay he delivered the Sabbath sermon, gave a Sunday-morning forum on Christian living and joined in a beach volleyball match.

For several years, Alaskan youths have attended a two-week summer camp in the Denali area, Alaska. By acquiring the King's Lake site this

year, Church Administration through the YOU Office was able to develop the site as an additional SEP camp for use by youths from across the United States and Canada.

"What's new is the campsite," said Mr. Turner. "We hope that SEP at King's Lake, Alaska, becomes an institution."

PERSONAL

(Continued from page 1)

of one's whole life and will to the will of Jesus Christ as Lord and Master is far from a topic on most people's minds today.

It is acceptable to simply take time out once a week from one's ordinary activities (which differ little, if any, from the world at large) to go to church services to be reminded of God's mercy and forgiveness of sin, and then go happily back to the pursuit of one's own life-style with little thought of any compelling need to be a wholehearted and committed disciple of Jesus Christ.

There is, of course, another ditch. Rigid legalism, as a means of trying to justify oneself before God, likewise fails to comprehend God's love and therefore is unable to return that love in a sound manner. Though legalists, however misguided or deceived, are making an effort to obey the God they profess to worship, they tend to see themselves as superior to others—like the Pharisees who opposed Jesus. They often become extremely critical and judgmental, and frequently try to force their views on others.

For true followers of Jesus

Christ, the picture is vastly different. Through the Holy Spirit they have come to understand the incredible magnitude of God's grace. But they do not put that understanding on the shelf. They are moved by God's love to forsake all their own ways and ideas and follow Christ forever with mind and heart.

Theirs is no once-a-week religion. Theirs is undivided commitment to a new order, a new way of life contrary to the natural thoughts and ways of mankind.

Through the love of God, their lives have changed. They have now devoted their energies, their time, their lives, their very hope for the future to the God who has given them not only a renewed purpose in their lives now, but a promise of a future life in supreme love—for eternity.

No longer are they devoted to amassing personal wealth, though some may be rich. No longer are they devoted to achieving personal fame, power or prestige, though some may be famous or powerful. No longer are they devoted to personal vindication or to domination of others.

As Jesus lives in them through the Holy Spirit, they are now devoted to the good and the well-

Church News Clips

• More than 100 Grand Junction, Meeker and Durango, Colo., brethren camped for five days June 30 through July 4 on the banks of the Crystal River. Members from Denver, Fort Collins and Colorado Springs, Colo., joined the group.

Camp activities included a trout-fishing derby, an obstacle course and a visit to the quarry that supplied the marble for the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Lincoln Memorial and Washington Monument in Washington, D.C. *Lori McCoy.*

• Frederick and Cumberland, Md., and Front Royal, Va., brethren presented Music Through the Ages May 13. The program featured music from 1450 to 1900. Slides of artwork and historical comments accompanied musical selections from the Renaissance, baroque, classical, romantic, impressionist and modern periods. *Janet Farnsworth.*

• Twenty-one Phoenix, Ariz., North and East youths and seven adults hiked into the Grand Canyon April 30 to May 2.

They spent two nights and one day at Bright Angel Creek at the

bottom of the canyon, where activities included fishing, hiking and relaxing along the creek.

The group hiked nine miles back to the rim of the canyon. *Jean Cole.*

• The Clarksburg, W. Va., church had a camp-out May 26 to 28 in the mountains near Beverly, W. Va. YES-age children learned to churn butter, teenagers made snow cones and the younger children learned how to tie knots, build a camp fire and row a boat.

Other activities included a fishing rodeo, a night hike, a Friday night Bible study and Sabbath services. *Jim Myers.*

• Durango, Colo., brethren honored six people in the congregation on the Sabbath, June 17. Honor went to Don and Ida Wiley, who have been married 52 years; Dale and Nancy Nice, who have been Church members in Durango for 28 years; Irene Neagle, who has been a member in Durango for 30 years; and Nettie Cater, 89, who is the congregation's oldest member. Mrs. Cater has attended in Durango since 1960. *Janet Davis.*

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

UPDATE

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico—Ministers and their wives serving in the Caribbean region attended a ministerial conference at the Regional Office here July 9 to 13.

Stan Bass, regional director, directed the meetings, which included morning sessions on Church administration, computers, financial matters, circulation and media planning, and afternoon workshops.

Mr. Bass devoted one day to meeting individually with each minister and his wife, "a practice which was introduced this year, and one which was well received by ministers and wives," Mr. Bass said.

★ ★ ★

BURLEIGH HEADS, Australia—Twenty-six national records were set at the Youth Opportunities United (YOU) national track meet in Sydney, Australia, June 27.

Gold Achievement awards went to senior boys **David Banks** of Bathurst and **Scott Tyndall** of Temora; senior girls **Arlene Lewis**, Morwell; and **Erin Spain**, Morwell; junior boys **Gavin Dahler**, Brisbane South; and **Michael MacDonald**, Ballarat; and junior girls **Denise**

Kremborg, Brisbane South; and **Tamara Gray**, Sydney North.

★ ★ ★

PASADENA—**Shogo Noguchi**, a faculty member from Bunkyo Womens Junior College in Japan, presented a *tolo* (Japanese stone lantern) to Ambassador College on behalf of **Kazuyuki Shimada**, Bunkyo President, Aug. 7.

Each summer for the past 10 years, Bunkyo has sent a group of students to study English and learn about American culture at Ambassador College.

The presentation recognized the 10th anniversary of this program, which is directed by **Arthur Suckling**, financial aids officer for Pasadena Ambassador College. Sixty students and five chaperons participated in this year's program, which began July 17 and ended Aug. 7.

In addition to classes, the group visited area attractions and put on an evening of Japanese culture Aug. 2 that featured Japanese food, games, dances, music and art.

★ ★ ★

PASADENA—A record



SAY CHEESE—Seventy-five interpreters and deaf brethren from across the United States sign "cheese" during a July 17 to 21 workshop on the Big Sandy Ambassador College campus. Workshop sessions included aspects of sign language, song signing, notetaking and the attitude of service. [Photo by Nathan Faulkner]

6,228,000 subscribers worldwide received the July issue of *The Plain Truth*, according to **Ray Wright**, Media Planning & Promotion manager.

This figure, which includes a record 4,395,000 U.S. subscribers, is 7.1 percent higher than the July, 1988, issue. The increase in worldwide circulation was primarily from the July, 1988, and January, 1989,

direct-mail campaigns in the United States.

Total *Plain Truth* circulation, now at 6,623,000, decreased 3 percent from last year because of worldwide reductions in the newsstand program.

★ ★ ★

HOBART, Australia—The three Tasmanian churches—Ho-

bart, Launceston and Devonport—combined for Sabbath services June 17 to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the church in Tasmania.

Guests of honor at the event were **William Winner**, director of ministerial services in the Australian Regional Office, and his wife, **Carolyn**.

Ministers who had served in the area sent congratulatory messages. After Sabbath services teenage girls served a dinner provided by women from the congregations.

Mr. Winner, assisted by **Gwen Bay**, the first Tasmanian to be baptized, and **Mollie Graham**, the oldest baptized Tasmanian member, cut an anniversary cake.

★ ★ ★

SYDNEY, Australia—Four Australian youths received Gold Achievement awards at the 1989 Youth Opportunities United (YOU) national talent contest June 24.

Finalists representing Australia's six YOU regions performed for an audience of more than 800.

Gold awards went to vocalist **Fiona Furnell** of Sydney; pianist **Richard John** of Perth; drummer **Scott Osborne** of Gold Coast; and vocalist **Caroline Sag** of Brisbane.

★ ★ ★

PASADENA—The Work mailed the 75-millionth foreign-language edition of *The Plain Truth* in June.

Millions more were distributed through newsstands, according to Media Planning & Promotion.

Spanish

(Continued from page 4)

The Chilean economy is considered good by South American standards, but many members are underemployed.

Peru

From Piura in the north to Tacna 1,400 miles to the south, **Wilfredo Saenz**, pastor of the Trujillo, Huaraz and Lima, Peru, churches,



WILFREDO & ROSA SAENZ

attends to the needs of 170 members.

Mr. Saenz meets with outlying members about every four weeks for a Bible study. Since the beginning of this year 26 people have been baptized.

Mr. Saenz plans to conduct a series of Bible lectures this fall. The lectures allow him to invite and meet with those who have requested a visit.

Protestant ministers have been killed and their churches bombed for speaking out against the terrorists.

"But we have been spared," Mr. Saenz said. "God is hearing our prayers for protection. And a group

of members are fasting once a week about this crisis.

"Thankfully God gives us the courage to keep on going and to face our problems and trials successfully."

"Members there are thankful for the support from headquarters and prayers of the brethren around the world. We do our part to support the Work and pray for those who also have problems."

Spain and Portugal

"When I arrived in Spain, August, 1988, there was no church service," said **Pedro Rufian**, Madrid pastor. "Members kept the Sabbath alone and listened to sermon tapes. But now we have a weekly service in Madrid."

Four baptisms before the

Passover brought the membership in Spain to 31. A baptism in Portu-



PEDRO & BRIGIDA RUFIAN

gal brought the membership there to 15. Portuguese members have "no regular service, just a Bible

study when I'm able to get there," Mr. Rufian said.

Economically things are difficult for members in Portugal. "Wages are so low some can hardly afford to live, and require assistance."

In Spain the economy and members are doing well. Some members encounter friction when they attend church and their families do not, Mr. Rufian explained.

Last April *Pura Verdad* readers were invited to a series of Bible lectures. "Two hundred and five attended, a bigger response than anticipated," he said. "People want to know how our doctrines are different from other religions."

"There is a lot of work to do," said Mr. Rufian. "We need manpower. The fields are white to harvest and we need help."

FROM OUR SCATTERED BRETHREN

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

PASADENA—The Union of Burma changed its name to The Union of Myanmar, which avoids the implication that all citizens are Burmese.

"We have been told that visas for tourists will be granted once again," said **Robert Fahey**, Australian regional director.

India

Mr. Fahey received the following letter from **Daniel Zachariah**, pas-

tor of the Madras, India, church.

"Employment is still a major trial for our brethren. One of our prospective members in Kerala, who is a professional engineer, has now been out of a job for almost a year.

"Since there is nothing like unemployment benefits in India, those without jobs have to depend on their families for their basic necessities.

"One member in Madras, who has a master's degree in arts, has had many jobs offered to him in the past year, but not one where he could keep the Sabbath."

Antigua

Twenty-six people—16 adults and 10 children—make up the St. John's, Antigua, church. Although it is one of the smallest churches in the Caribbean region, the Church is well known in the country, which has a population of 74,000.

In fact, government representatives approached the church and asked to borrow its lectern. They declared the lectern "the finest on

the island," according to **Stan Bass**, Caribbean regional director.

"The government offered its assistance to the church in the event we should need it," Mr. Bass said.

After having difficulty finding a hall, the St. John's church was offered a contract with a new hotel complex in the center of town. The facility features video equipment, telephones, a facsimile machine and computer services.

"The manager declared us the finest group he has ever worked with, and he expressed his pleasure with our members. It just goes to show you don't have to be a large bulb to shine a bright light," Mr. Bass said.

Philippines

Filipino brethren met for combined Pentecost services at 30 locations.

Attendance was 4,924, and "many described the day as a 'joyous and unifying Feast,'" said **Rodney Matthews**, regional director.

In one area outlying brethren were not able to attend services because of fighting between different factions.

During a raid about 400 fighters seized control of a small city on the road between the members and services.

Although no members were directly affected by the fighting, it was too dangerous for some of them to travel through the area to attend services during Pentecost weekend, Mr. Matthews said.

Holy Day Envelopes

PASADENA—Holy Day offering envelopes for the Fall Festival season have been mailed to U.S. members. If you have not received your supply by Sept. 11, please call the toll-free number (1-800-423-4444) no later than Sept. 22. This is the last date the Mail Processing Center (MPC) can mail personalized envelopes with assurance that they will reach you by the Feast of Trumpets, Sept. 30.

These envelopes are intended solely to speed the processing of Holy Day offerings. Please handle changes of address and literature requests through other correspondence.

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