

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Special Sabbath of Thanksgiving

Mr. Armstrong has proclaimed that November 15 be set aside as a special Sabbath of thanksgiving to God for His intervention in the legal situation with the State of California. This should be a memorable occasion for each local congregation. Your sermon should revolve around the subject of thanksgiving and God's direction and presence in this Work. It would be appropriate and add to the meaning of this special day by having a pot-luck or some other social event before or after services.

Y.O.U., Y.E.S. and YOUTH '81

Recently, all of you received a packet concerning Y.O.U. memberships. Now the need for additional information will require a change in procedures.

We need to compile a list of ALL the children and young people in the Church to fill needs in three different areas:

1. Mailing lists for YOUTH '81.
2. Mailing lists for Y.E.S. lessons.
3. Y.O.U. membership roll for insurance purposes.

To simplify this process for you and the brethren and also to satisfy computer needs, we have designed a new card which will cover all three requirements. These cards are in the mail to pastors in English-speaking churches now.

In the United States, the cards will include the label of the head of household. All other countries will receive cards without labels. Complete instructions will accompany each shipment of cards.

Briefly, this involves passing out the cards in church services, having them filled out, collecting, packaging, and returning them. U.S. pastors should mail them to Pasadena.

Pastors outside the U.S. will receive shipment from the Regional Office, and return them there. **IMPORTANT:** Please be careful to open the bag or box without damaging it as it will be used for return shipment.

Remember to give this **HIGH PRIORITY** and distribute the cards the first Sabbath after receiving them.

Regarding Student Baptisms by Field Ministers

During past years, and even recently, various students of Ambassador College would go to a local church area during the summer break, counsel with a minister and be baptized during the summer before returning to Ambassador in the fall.

In the past, as I recall, we used to recommend that local ministers in the field go rather slowly in baptizing students. When and where possible it was considered advisable to have the students wait until they returned to Ambassador for the next year so they could counsel with one of the ministers in the College. This was because the ministers in the College would normally know the students better and could verify what their "fruits" actually were -- could more readily determine if the students had "brought forth fruits of repentance" than could a minister who might have much shorter contact with the student during the summer break.

Normally, if a prospective member is passing through another church area, he should not counsel with the local minister concerning baptism, but should counsel with his own local minister who ought to know him better-- his background, his fruits, etc. This is similar to the situation with College students who are prospective members. Normally, the ministers in the College will know them better, understand their backgrounds, their fruits, etc. than can a local minister who may have very limited contact with that student as a prospective member.

This does not mean that you local ministers aren't qualified to counsel with and/or baptize students. But when possible it might be wiser either to have the student wait (unless he or she is definitely, clearly ready for baptism) until he returns to Ambassador in the fall so he can be counselled thoroughly by a minister here who knows him. If a local minister feels he ought to go ahead and baptize a student during the summer break, then he should call the Dean of Students office in Pasadena to discuss his/her baptism with one of the ministers.

International News

Violence in Central America Some weeks ago, Mr. Leon Walker, Regional Director for the Spanish-speaking areas of God's Work, received a sobering letter from our elder in El Salvador, Mr. Herbert Cisneros. Here are excerpts from that letter:

Greetings from the tiny and violence-racked nation of El Salvador. With respect to the violence in El Salvador, I must inform you that on Saturday, August 2nd, at 7:30 in the evening, the mother of Mrs. Maria Scarlet de Pinto, a Church member, was assassinated by Leftist Guerrillas. Her (the Church member's) father had to leave El Salvador since it is really he they wish to kill, just because he had been in the army several years ago.

Mrs. Patricia Arguello, another Church member, was assaulted as she was leaving the gynecologist's office after giving birth to a baby boy. The object of the assault was to steal her husband's automobile, but when the attackers saw that Mrs. Arguello was carrying a newborn baby, they let the couple go free. Auto theft has become a real plague among the Salvadorians; it is estimated that about 50 cars are stolen every day.

In spite of the incidents I have just related, I can say that we have no major problems. The war that is being waged here is largely a psychological one which produces a very tense situation. It is so tense, in fact, that I have had to anoint several members lately for stress-related problems. The tense atmosphere in which we live is

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A Voice Cries Out: What's Wrong with Government!

Civilization is in danger of cosmocide.
It's time to look to causes!

Appeared in the Wall Street Journal October 27, 1980

LEADERS OF AMERICA, **WAKE UP!**—or face human extinction! The nation and the world are fraught with troubles and evils seemingly past human remedy. SURVIVAL is now our No. 1 problem!

It appears now that if weapons of mass destruction do not soon erase mankind from the earth, the population explosion will!

There has to be a CAUSE for every effect. Too often people try to find solutions by dealing with effects. But until CAUSES are removed, the effects will not just go away. In the imperative search for causes we look now to the six major facets that have made civilization what it is: government, business and industry, science and technology, modern education, organized labor, religion.

Where have these gone wrong?

A week ago we covered an overview of modern education. Civilization is what its leaders have made it, and education is the alma mater of the leaders. They are largely what the educational system made them. Education has succumbed to intellectual materialism. Knowledge of the TRUE VALUES was jettisoned somewhere along the way. Humanity's problems are spiritual in nature and a materialistic knowledge cannot understand or solve them.

Later we will focus on business and industry, on science and technology, on organized labor and on religion.

But recently this country has been concerned with a presidential election. So we take, now, a quick overview of government. What has government contributed either to the cause or the solution of present escalating evils?

Over the years I have been invited to personal conferences with numerous heads of state—kings, emperors, presidents, prime ministers—and others high in government under them, in many other countries.

I have said often to them that there are only two ways or philosophies of life, broadly speaking. And these travel in opposite directions. One will produce peace, universal prosperity and well-being. The other will CAUSE precisely



HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

what we have in the world today!

I simplify these two basic motivations so even a child can understand. One is the way of "GET"—the other the way of "GIVE."

"Get" is the way of self-centeredness, vanity, covetousness, envy, jealousy, hostility, resentment of authority over one. "Give" is the way of outflowing love—concern for the well-being of neighbor equal to self-concern. It is the way of helping, serving, sharing—of kindness, consideration, goodwill.

GOVERNMENT is that organized authority over the people to insure by law and order to each the freedoms and liberties that do not infringe on the lawful rights and liberties of others.

But politicians govern in a world living the "get" way of life. Government should produce a contented, happy, peaceful and prosperous society.

But politicians have grown up in this world addicted to the way of "get." It would indeed be naive to suppose they would not absorb the "get" motivation. Nothing in their educational training inculcated within them the "give" incentive. So it is normal that they have followed the old saying, "Jones pays the freight, give Jones what he wants."

Now Jones wants to "get" from government. And political candidates want to "get" Jones' votes. But Jones in this country is divided in many group votes. What one faction may want to "get" from government too often collides with another. The candidate often walks a tightrope, and to win both faction votes the candidate sometimes succumbs to making promises he can't deliver.

If the public wants to "get" from government, we must not suppose political candidates do not covet power. So in government in this country we have the

merry-go-round of people trying to "get" from government, and politicians using every strategy to "get" power!

I will relate an incident in case. I was entertaining at dinner in my home an overseas diplomat sometimes called "the strong man of Europe." A presidential inauguration had just occurred in Washington.

"What," asked another guest of the European politician, "do you suppose was going on in the mind of the new president while taking the oath of office?"

"How to be reelected four years from now, of course," came the instant reply.

What, after all, has government contributed to the present state of society—the nation and the world? Government has not corrected or changed the human-nature way of "get," but operated with it. And every evil dragging this sick world toward cosmocide has been CAUSED by the "get" nature in MAN! We call it human nature.

But we need government. The alternative would be anarchy!

Governments of nations over the world do work for PEACE—even fight and war for PEACE! And we still have wars. I know that the responsibility of the chief office in government weighs heavily on men in such high office. I have talked with many heads of state who admit privately that they face problems beyond human power to solve.

Some world leaders have said humanity's only hope lies in a single world government over all nations, with only one military force. Yet in the same breath they admit the impossibility of man to produce it.

An editorial some time ago in *U.S. News & World Report* stated it a different way—that it would now seem the only hope for human survival lies in the intervention of a strong "Unseen Hand from Someplace!"

This voice announces, believe it or not, both these solutions will happen in our lifetime. MANKIND won't change human nature, nor set up the world government—doesn't even have to believe it—BUT IT WILL HAPPEN TO US! And in this generation we shall see a new world tomorrow, with universal well-being for all.

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
Pastor General
Worldwide Church of God

We have nothing to sell. But to those who might care for it, will be sent gratis—and no follow-up—the intriguing booklet by Mr. Armstrong, *The Seven Laws of Success*. Also upon request—no subscription price—a trial subscription to *The Plain Truth*, a monthly magazine of UNDERSTANDING in full color—worldwide circulation in five languages, in excess of two million copies a month. It covers the meaning behind world news, the causes and answers to human and world problems. Address Worldwide Church of God, Pasadena, Calif., 91123, or call toll free, (800) 423-4444. In California call collect (213) 577-5225.

The Attorney General is a man of his word.

Appeared in the Los Angeles Times October 29, 1980

ON SEPT. 30, 1980, Senate Bill No. 1493 was signed into law by Gov. Jerry Brown. It provides that the attorney general of the state of California shall have no powers with respect to religious corporations (except for a few specific areas clearly defined) to supervise or monitor church affairs in the state of California.

We of the Worldwide Church of God supported Senate Bill 1493. We were—and are—firmly convinced that it provides a protection badly needed by California's religious organizations and churches. The First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States is plainly applicable to the states by reason of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution, but for nearly two years our Church has been engaged in a legal defense of that important right on behalf of ourselves and others.

George Deukmejian, attorney general of the state of California, our adversary in the lawsuits we have been fighting, opposed Senate Bill 1493. In his opposition, he stated, he would have to dismiss the lawsuits against us if the new act became law.

Senate Bill 1493 did become law. Attorney General George Deukmejian has dropped the charges against us as he promised. He is a man of his word. We admire him for that.

In a sense, though we believe he had no legal or moral grounds for harassing us or interfering with the Work of the living God, we always have admired the consistency concerning the democratic process in the United States.

Mr. Deukmejian has not been attorney general for very long. His principal background was as a member of the legislature. There, he always expressed the strongest feeling that democracy works best when it reflects the voice of the legislature, the will of the people, and our form of government sometimes strays from the path of democracy when the courts become involved.

His support of the "use a gun, go to prison" legislation was a prime demonstration of that conviction.

When Mr. Deukmejian became attorney general, he inherited the lawsuits against us. We were being accused wildly of all manner of things. Anonymous



STANLEY R. RADER

detractors said we were cultist, whatever that means. It was said that our leaders were siphoning off millions of dollars of Church money. A secret hoard of gold bullion was allegedly being stockpiled in some hidden cache. Church properties were being sold for the private enrichment of a few individuals. Our books and records were being systematically shredded and destroyed.

All these charges were false, simply nonsense, and we immediately convinced judges that they were absurd and groundless.

However, Mr. Deukmejian felt he had an authority to continue with the lawsuits brought against us under the administration of his predecessor, Evelle Younger, and strongly urged upon him by his bureaucracy. He had too much faith in his deputies, and he evidently believed that California law, as it was written before passage of Senate Bill 1493, made churches something called "charitable trusts" owned by the state and made churches answerable to the office of the attorney general. His deputies contended that the law made it the right and duty of the attorney general's office to oversee the spending of church funds and to monitor all of their activities.

Because the attorney general followed the legal advice of his deputies, he took it upon himself to confiscate our records, to investigate our Work, to search through our most private papers because he believed California law made him responsible for our actions.

We disagreed and we resisted with all the force and vigor at our command. We would have continued to resist for as long as necessary.

Mr. Deukmejian opposed Senate Bill 1493 when it was introduced into the legislature by Sen. Nicholas Petris. He said he believed it was necessary to allow the attorney general authority to investigate churches. He said that churches—particularly those organized along hierarchical lines, as is ours and the Roman Catholic church—would be able to hide too much. He said it would be too easy for wrongdoing to occur if the government was forbidden to look at

the private papers and files of such organizations.

He admitted if the bill was passed he would no longer have any legal right to investigate us. He conceded that, just as he was trying to enforce the previous law as he saw it, now he would have to abide by the new law, whether or not he thought it represented wise legislation.

Mr. Deukmejian is a man of his word. He has dropped the suits against us. We are happy about that. Since it always was our contention not only that we were innocent of wrongdoing, which we were, but that the attorney general had no right to harass us in the first place, we feel vindicated in the purest sense. We proved ourselves innocent earlier. Now we have been proved right.

However, while we opposed the attorney general with vigor, we do share some of his feelings about the political process.

We agree with him about the importance of the legislature. We agree with him that the principles of the United States are best protected with the voice of the legislature. And we agree with him that the law, as enacted, should be obeyed. We always have obeyed the law. We admire Mr. Deukmejian for finally doing the same thing.

I, personally, would like to say one final thing. While I have disagreed vigorously with Mr. Deukmejian's position against the Church, I do share his feeling that there is a very important question at issue here. *What is the proper relationship between government and church?*

That is a hard question. I am as aware as Mr. Deukmejian is that scoundrels sometimes hide behind the veil of religion. They always have. The right to worship freely must be protected anyway. I am equally aware that horrors occur as in Guyana. But, there must be lawful ways to protect the innocent from those who would prey upon them.

I intend to continue to work in this field. I would like to involve Mr. Deukmejian and other government leaders who are interested in pursuing this monumental question. I would hope that other church leaders and civil libertarians will join us in searching for answers. What do you say, Mr. Deukmejian? We were powerful adversaries. Perhaps we can be even stronger associates.

Stanley R. Rader

STANLEY R. RADER
Treasurer
Worldwide Church of God

heightened by incidents of setting fire to city buses, wide scale thievery, constantly exploding bombs and by guerrilla ambushes.

Much of this is carried out by groups which have lost popular support and are consequently taking revenge on the general populace. They set fire to crop lands and ranches in rural areas, murdering farmers and coercing them at gunpoint to participate in the strikes and other demonstrations that the guerrillas declare.

In spite of all the above mentioned difficulties, we continue lifting up our prayers and asking the Eternal to protect and care for us. Also, we pray for the rulers of this country so that we may be able to lead "a quiet and peaceable life."

News From London The festival at Brighton this year was most successful. For the first time in many years, the entire U.K. and Eire membership were able to meet together at one site to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles. This was made even more exciting by the good reception of the microwave transmission from Tucson on the evening of the first day. All 4140 people attending the Brighton Convention Center benefited greatly from such an inspirational start to the Feast. God granted us really exceptional weather for the time of year--a fact which did not go unnoticed by the local paper, which covered it in an article entitled, "You know what they say about the sun shining on the righteous...."

Lecture Series in U.K.: A number of Plain Truth lectures are to be held in the coming months throughout the British Isles. These will be of two basic types: 1) "Coping with Life," and 2) "The Incredible Human Potential." Sites booked so far include Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Cardiff, Cheltenham and Plymouth.

Advertisement in Newsweek: Response to the ad placed in Newsweek on the 15th of September has been coming in steadily since that date. Though the position obtained did not seem quite as good as in the recent Time magazine ad, nevertheless the response has been most satisfactory with 1600 replies to date--and many more coming in on a daily basis. As in the case of the direct mail programme, a fair number of these responses are requesting copies of The PLAIN TRUTH in languages other than English.

A similar advertisement--where The PLAIN TRUTH is presented as an international publication with editions in five languages--has now been booked in the Atlantic edition of Time magazine for the 24th November.

New Ads to Be Used in Second Half of Year: A new ad which was developed and tested just before the Feast is to be used generally throughout the U.K. for the second half of the year. With the title, "Will World War III Destroy Humanity?," the ad presents The PLAIN TRUTH as a magazine which answers this and similar questions which are vital to all.

With the Middle East in constant turmoil, and in the light of the Gulf war, we feel this new slant in our advertising campaign should prove quite topical.

Direct Mail: Response is now beginning to pour in from the 40,000 pieces of Direct Mail recently sent to English-speaking people in Scandinavia, the European continent and Middle East. This mailing was broken into

various sections in order to test the effectiveness of a selection of lists.

Our initial response seems exceptional. Hoping for a 5% response to make the project worthwhile, the first batch sent out has achieved a staggering 19%, while another two similar batches have achieved 13% and 14% respectively!

Using the same mailing lists which gave these excellent test results, we plan to send out a further 30,000 pieces of mail in two weeks time.

Update From the Netherlands The Feast of Tabernacles at the Hunzebergen was certainly the best ever with gorgeous weather and 364 people registered. The sun was shining every day, which is remarkable for that time of year. Out of the 364 people registered, 89 came from other areas of the world: U.S.A., Canada, Australia, South Africa, England, Scotland and Tanzania. Our guest from Tanzania was Mr. Tom Kaswaga. He and nine others of his countrymen were sent over to The Netherlands by their government for special training at Philips Industries this summer.

Mr. Kaswaga was baptized in 1973 and had never been able to attend a Feast of Tabernacles due to local conditions and restrictions. He and his group were scheduled to return to Tanzania one week before the Feast, to make room for another group. His visa would expire at the same time and once back in Tanzania the chances to attend a Feast would be nil.

The Philips organization was willing to cooperate in having Tom's visa extended, provided Tom would receive approval from his employer to stay another two weeks longer in The Netherlands. He wrote the necessary letters and we all prayed for him. Two days before his group was to return home a telegramme arrived at Philips saying that his leave of absence had been extended by two weeks. So Mr. Kaswaga attended and experienced his first Feast of Tabernacles, thanks to the intervention of Almighty God.

The spirit at the Feast at the Hunzebergen was a spirit of unity and peace. The highlight was certainly the first-day message from Mr. Herbert Armstrong. In England video recordings were made of that message. We had one of our men stationed in Brighton to bring the video cassette to The Netherlands as soon as possible. Everything worked out well and that weekly Sabbath afternoon during the Feast we all enjoyed the presence of Mr. Armstrong.

We were also happy to have Mr. Garry Lucas as a guest speaker. Mr. Lucas is a Dutch-speaking local church elder in Barry, Ontario. All services were conducted in the Dutch language with simultaneous English translation. We are always happy with the many visitors we get here at every Feast. It gives the Feast a truly international flavor.

Compared to 1979, our Holy Day offerings over the entire year are up by 11.12%.

Income at end of September shows a 22.6% increase for the past 12 months, a 31.6% increase year to date and a 83.5% increase month to month. The month-to-month increase includes Holy Days and interest rates.

Church service attendance increased in September by 17% compared to the same month one year ago. Membership increased 9%. Eight people were baptized in the month of September.

If we look back over the past year we can truly say that God has blessed His Work in The Netherlands through the leadership of His Apostle, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong.

Appreciation for the Ministerial Refreshing Program

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

In past issues of the Pastor General's Report I had read many enthusiastic comments concerning the Ministerial Refreshing Program. I did wonder, "Can it be that good?" Now, in this final week of experiencing the program myself, I can answer the question. The answer is most definitely, yes--and much more so!

Thank you, Mr. Armstrong, that you have made all of this possible. Thank you for the converted instructors who have certainly been doing an excellent job. Thank you for again showing us the basics.

It has been enjoyable to renew old friendships and make new ones. The whole atmosphere in the classes, on the campus and in the various departments of the Work seems to vibrate with an energy from God--the power to accomplish whatever God wants done.

I know that I am eager to return to St. Louis and diligently fulfill my responsibilities.

Our prayers will continue for you that God will continue to bless you with good health, understanding, and the power to carry out God's will.

Again, Mr. Armstrong, thank you for all you have made possible and your example of dedication and serving our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Robert Spence

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Thank you so very much for the exciting opportunity to be back in Pasadena for a tremendous three-week Refreshing Program!

As an added treat, while we were here, the stranglehold of the Attorney General was terminated! This meant a lot to us, because we were in Pasadena on Sabbatical when the initial blow was struck.

The whole atmosphere of bustle and enthusiasm at Pasadena came out in the Refreshing Program! How refreshing it was to hear the Plain Truth expounded powerfully and with conviction, by Messrs. Tkach, Blackwell, LaRavia, Hoeh, Neff, McNair, and the many others who filled the more than 100 hours of instruction! We appreciate their dedication, drive, and most important, their loyal support of you,

and the doctrines of the Church. Their desire is to give us the instruction you would give if you could be here, directly teaching and guiding us! They did a superb job!!

My wife Patty and I are grateful, and again thank you!!

Arnold and Patty Clauson

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

How much better the Feast is now for all of God's Church! God has allowed us to see and hear from you not just once, but three times! Thank you for your leadership, work and effort to make the Feast so encouraging and uplifting! So meaningful!

The debt my wife and I owe to God through you is beyond words and price! We know God's way works and brings reward, peace and happiness. Through you God gave to us the opportunity to attend Ambassador College, meet one another, complete college and be a part of His Work. The knowledge God has given us through you in areas of conversion, truth, the Work, marriage, family and the Church is priceless! We appreciate the opportunity God has given us to serve God's people as you have led and instructed and taught us in doing. Your example--past and present--continues to be a force and guide in our lives in following you as you follow Christ (I Cor. 11:1).

We are living examples to God's credit and to your credit as God's modern, end-time servant and Apostle that what you teach, how you teach and why you teach it is bearing fruit. Under God you really are a Father to us spiritually, and due to our young ages (32 and 35), I guess a Grandfather physically! And we like being your "children in the Lord." We pray for you--your strength, health and vitality; we also pray for Mrs. Armstrong.

We feel and believe that God intends for you to be the key in the future of world events. As God works with and moves you to accomplish His work, so will events move forward in the world. And it excites us to think that we will be led (God willing) into the Kingdom of God through you as His end-time Apostle.

God has certainly granted you the support and loyalty from men whom you trust--Mr. Rader, Mr. Tkach, Mr. Blackwell, Mr. McNair, to name a few. This we not only saw, but literally felt while we were privileged to be in Pasadena in the third group of men and wives for the Refreshing Program. Also our contact with these men as they attended the Feast in our area.

Mr. Armstrong, my wife and I and our 8 1/2 year old daughter need your constant leadership in all areas of this way of life. We need all the writing you do, all the speaking you can do and all the knowledge and wisdom God is giving through you in these crucial times. My hope as a minister is to loyally teach God's people as God leads you in all areas of life--the Gospel, God's Work and Word, marriage, family, angels and the human potential.

We are with you in spirit--please accept our thanks and gratitude and appreciation for all you have done for the Work and for us!

Ron and Rosemary Wallen

P.S. Perhaps a note of interest--I visited about four years ago with a Mr. Prigeon, then 92 years of age, who worked at the same sawmill and lumber company at the same time you were here in South Mississippi, near Wiggins. He remembered seeing you then but did not actually meet you at the time. But he did know you. He is now deceased. Also, the Infirmary where you spent time while ill is, of course, long gone, having been replaced by two large modern hospitals in other areas of Hattiesburg. We presently have only two members from the Wiggins area.

Warmest Greetings, Mr. Armstrong:

My wife and I want to thank you for giving us a priceless privilege of being mentally refreshed and spiritually rejuvenated through the three-week Refreshing Program approved by you. We were in Pasadena for a Sabbatical for the year 1977-78 which I call the great debacle. A number of men in high positions were not supporting God's government through you, but were very subtle in their erroneous teachings to us.

How thoroughly refreshing it is in October, 1980, to be taught by capable men who demonstrate by their words and behavior that they will hold up your arms in supporting the government of God by supporting you, the Apostle whom God has called to do the Work in these end times. Contrary to our Sabbatical year, these men, and I speak specifically of Mr. Tkach, Mr. La Ravia, Mr. Blackwell, and Mr. Neff, are humble, friendly, candid and loyal ministers who are helping us to understand the teachings God has revealed through you. There is love and unity like I have not seen in many years.

Jess and Paula Ernest

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

There has never been a time when we have been more proud to be a part of the Work of the living God.

We thank God daily for you, His Apostle, and the wonderful job he is doing through you in getting the Church back on the track.

We thank you with all our hearts for this Refreshing Program, which we feel is a thoroughly effective tool in getting the ministry in tune, toned up and ready to better serve the brethren in the local areas.

Don and Alix Engle

Mr. Tkach:

Rosemary and I would like to say thank you so very much for the Refreshing Program we have just completed. We were given the Red Carpet treatment while there! The classes were terrific, with

emphasis on areas vital to us in our work as we strive loyally to support with, and through you, God's Apostle. The program was fantastic. (This word is maybe too often used, but it does express what we feel!) We are behind you and God's servant 100%.

Ron and Rosemary Wallen

"A Miracle From God"

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

This is a somewhat delayed thank you for your inspired messages during the Feast. The two sermons were certainly a miracle from God all the way. Your strength is assuredly being renewed daily (Isaiah 40:31).

We heard you say years ago that you hoped God would let you live to see His Kingdom come. The way He is continuing to use you so powerfully certainly indicates He intends to finish His Work through you. May God's will be done--our prayers are with you daily.

Mr. and Mrs. Novel Pyle

One Reason Some Don't Write Mr. Armstrong

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

I really am ashamed of myself for not having written to you earlier, but I am going to take this opportunity to do so now. I guess one reason why some of us in the ministry don't write you is that frankly we don't know where to start in thanking you for all you have done under Christ's direction. Do we start with thank you for all these many years you have remained unbending in your Faith toward God in living His way and setting for us the proper example? Or, do we thank you and show our appreciation for your setting the Church back on the track? Or, do we express how inspired we have been now year after year to see your strength and vigor returning after you were raised up by our Great God? Or, do we start by sharing with you the thrill of seeing and hearing the most inspired and powerful sermons you delivered at this year's Feast of Tabernacles via the miracle of modern communications?

In conjunction with that last point I must tell you of a cute thing I saw on the Last Great Day. A small child about 18 months old was seated in his father's arms. I know the family and I know that the child can only speak a very few words. Well, without any prompting by his dad, this little boy looked up at that giant screen after he had awakened from his nap and plainly said, "Armstrong!" He was smiling ear to ear. You really have an impact on the small children and I know they all love you dearly. My two boys, Paul David (age 11) and Michael Shane (age 10) both grew up in the Church and I know they love you very much and never fail to pray for you in their blessing of a meal or in their nighttime prayers. They also pray for Mr. Ted Armstrong that God would grant him repentance and that he would some day return into God's Church. I certainly hope we all pray that.

Mr. Armstrong, finally I just would like to say thank you for being God's Apostle. Thank you for the Truth I know that I have learned through you. Thank you that I was able to go to Ambassador College in Big Sandy. Thank you that I can be a part of this great Work and serve as a Minister of Christ. Thanks that now my entire family is in God's Church. My twin sister was baptized this year. My mom, dad, and brother have been baptized. It has taken 15 years. We are all very happy and I must say thanks again. It all came about because God used you. I say thank you God!!! Maybe now you see our problem in that we just don't know where to start when we think about writing to you.

I'll close by saying that the Church here in Montgomery, AL, supports you 100%+. We all love you, pray for you and your wife, appreciate the work you do and the work that Mr. Rader does. We shall continue to look to you as the Apostle of God and do everything in our lives to live up to the calling we have been given.

Paul Kurts

Thankful the Lawsuit Was Dropped

Dear Mr. Tkach:

This note is to let you know that the churches in Elkhart and Michigan City were thrilled to hear the news of the dropping of the lawsuit against the Worldwide Church of God by the Attorney General. There was spontaneous applause at the news! Even though there may be other ramifications, we are certainly pleased at the outcome so far.

The members have been very appreciative of Mr. Armstrong, Mr. Rader, yourself, and all the others who have been so directly involved in fighting this battle. We know that God has certainly inspired the outcome.

Rand Millich

Weekly Letter Comments

Upon returning home, brethren from around the country have enthusiastically shared what a magnificent Feast they experienced. One theme pervades the letters: this was indeed the greatest Feast ever! Members were truly inspired by the sermons and sermonettes as well as the spirit of love and unity. The highlights of each site were Mr. Armstrong's live sermons on the two Holy Days.

Best Feast Ever!

I have just had the wonderful opportunity of attending the great Feast of Tabernacles of 1980! Words fail me when I would like to describe that fantastic, joyful eight days! The sermonettes and sermons of all were truly inspiring--in fact--just what we all needed. To see and hear Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Rader over the microwave was surely an added blessing!

Mrs. Robert Wood (Dover, AR)

I am completely overjoyed to have been a part of the Feast of Tabernacles 1980. It was just wonderful. I attended the Feast at Big Sandy. It was my first time there. I am still excited over the inspiring services and the beauty of the campus grounds.

Clara Phillips (Little Rock, AR)

Thanks for the most inspired Feast that we have attended in over 19 years. We attended in Tucson. What a beautiful area! It was good to see you (Mr. Armstrong) in person. You looked great and your speaking is more powerful than ever.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray L. Grubb (Jackson Springs, NC)

It was a very great blessing to attend the Feast at Pasadena this year. I would rush the last few steps going into the Auditorium to gain the protection from the heat and smog.

All the ministers gave us meat in due season and my deepest thanks and respect to you (Mr. Armstrong) for all the years of work and planning that went into the campus. Truly it is a sanctuary away from a mad, mad world!

Alfred Peterson (Seattle, WA)

It truly was a great Feast of Tabernacles. I went to Wisconsin Dells and the mood up there was a more serious one. God's people were there to draw closer to God. The crowd was very attentive. It seemed everyone was trying to extract as much out of each sermon and sermonette as they could. I thank God that He has allowed my family and me to be a part of all this. Truly, Christ has made His Church strong and more united than ever before.

Gary Laudermilk (Centerpoint, IN)

What a wonderful 1980 Feast. So much happiness and rejoicing. And the spiritual food was so delicious. The ministers beaming with God's Holy Spirit, and we members feeling it so much, tears streamed down our faces, in thanks to our God for calling us out of the world into something the world cannot know now. To think we of God's Church are going to teach them this wonderful way in the World Tomorrow. I want to thank everyone who worked so hard to help us have a wonderful Feast, especially those traffic men who had to stand out in the rain in Big Sandy.

Lucille Loyd (Danville, AR)

We attended the Feast of Tabernacles in Vail, Colorado this year, and it was just wonderful! The sermons were so inspiring, like it used to be, only more so. There was a different attitude there from what it had been in the past ten years, people were warm and friendly. We enjoyed Vail very much as a Feast site and hope we can go back next year. Our whole family came home very inspired, and rededicated to doing the Work of God.

Mr. and Mrs. G. N. Anderson (Tehachapi, CA)

It certainly was the best Feast ever with the tremendous spiritual diet to feast upon. I can't say Fresno is a spectacular place for scenery or things to do, but when God's name is there and the

brethren are there it is most enjoyable. We needed all those inspiring messages to see us through what looks like a long, hard, dark season ahead. It was good to see you (Mr. Armstrong) in such excellent form and strength also. My only complaint is that I couldn't take notes because the hall was so dark. Was a blessing to be able to attend the Feast!

Janet Farnsworth (Gardena, CA)

We had the most marvelous and inspiring Feast of Tabernacles at Eugene, Oregon. We give God all the praise and credit for the beautiful weather and wonderful services. We were able to drive to Belnap Springs where you (Mr. Armstrong) and Mrs. Armstrong went for your first Feast. It was thrilling to see the beautiful country. We were inspired to hear you "live" on the Last Great Day. Our God is wonderful indeed.

Mrs. Edna Comin (Portland, OR)

The Feast in Detroit was certainly fine despite the fact that it was in a big city. I enjoyed it, but most of all it was the best Feast ever spiritually. The sermons were the most inspiring ever and I felt more compelled to change, to repent of wrong ways in my life. This Feast has gotten my mind more on the main goal in our lives--the Kingdom of God.

Robert Miller (Cleveland, OH)

We just finished the most wonderful Feast in 45 years. Everyone seemed so sincere. I think we now have the most loyal group we have ever had. Your messages on both Holy Days were clear and very uplifting. You look like you are in the best of health. Your voice is strong and clear. Everyone here in the Church seems to be very happy and contented and everything seems to be going fine in every way. Will close. Remember we love you both.

Chloe Sewell (Pasadena, CA)

It doesn't seem possible that the 1980 Feast of Tabernacles is already over. Now that we have been reviewed in the knowledge of the soon-coming Kingdom of God, we can go about our daily lives with greater hope in the future.

Thank you (Mr. Armstrong) for your efforts at making this, once again, the greatest Feast ever. The satellite transmission on the first and last days were excellent.

Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Migl (Inez, TX)

While it's fresh on my mind, I want to write and tell you (Mr. Armstrong) what a wonderful Feast we had in Eugene, Oregon. The facilities and surroundings were very nice. Everything was convenient--parking, motels, restaurants, etc.

But, best of all, the ministers helped give us a more vivid mental picture of the World Tomorrow that we were portraying. All messages were directed at the meaning of the Feast.

What a blessing to be able to see and hear you speak to us live at two services (and the opening night on tape).

Thank you for providing, with God's help, the best Feast ever. Everyone seemed more united this year and I didn't notice any bad attitudes.

Mary Asher (St. Helen's, OR)

Thank you, Mr. Armstrong, for allowing us to have the opportunity to observe God's Festival--the Feast of Tabernacles--in Eugene. As we joined in to sing praises to God, I could imagine what a joyous occasion it was for God's angels to hear praises being sent up to God from around the world. How furious Satan must be to see God's people obeying God by keeping His Holy Days! What a comfort to know that soon the whole world will have the same opportunity.

Thelma Phillips (Eugene, OR)

--JOE TKACH, MINISTERIAL SERVICES

EXCERPTS FROM LETTERS RE "YOUNG AMBASSADORS" FESTIVAL FILM

Thank you for the fantastic film for Feast '80! I don't know when I've enjoyed a feature so much! I enjoyed the glimpse into Ambassador Campus, too! Thank you for thinking of all of us brethren who can't come to Pasadena and see you perform!!

Sandra Laymance, Malaga, WA

You set such a wonderful example for all of the children with your neat apperance, attractive hair style on all of you, beautiful smiles and lovely songs. Thank you so very much for all of your hard work! Our young people need your example! Please film another fun show for next year--or tour some of the Feast sites. We'd love to have you here!

Mr. and Mrs. Tim Rhay, OR

The "Young Ambassadors" were so impressive--it was outstanding in talent and professionally programmed and presented. So many commented on that particular attribute.

Mrs. Marian Butbeck, Scottsdale, AZ

I felt moved to write this letter after seeing the "Young Ambassadors" film last night at the Brighton Centre feast site (England). It was a beautiful, uplifting programme and especially inspiring to my four children.

Mrs. Barbara Bearman, Kent, England

When we first heard there was going to be a movie sent out from Pasadena, I was a little disappointed. "How could a movie take the place of the Young Ambassadors in person? How could a movie do justice to an A.C. Feast Show?" I should not have been concerned because it surpassed my highest expectations!

Being on film allowed you to do things otherwise impossible on stage ...the different angles, the fading in and out and double exposures--and especially the closeups! The close-ups of God's young people

smiling and singing and dancing with every ounce of energy in their bodies! It was so inspiring and uplifting!! It made Val and I wish so much we could be there again and also thankful to still be part of this wonderful and important Work of God at this end time. The show was truly a success. Professional to the nth degree! Keep up the good work and may God continue to be with you all!

Dan and Val Deininger, Deer Park, WA

Thank you for your part in making this the most joyous, uplifting feast in several years. We didn't think it was possible to outperform yourselves last year in Florida but you did. Keep up the good work.

Mr. and Mrs. Schreiber and
The Minneapolis Churches

Have had a great Feast here! One of the highlights was the A.C. film. It was better than FANTASTIC! Wayne organized the first half of the live talent that was presented, followed by the film. Both are still being talked about. All of us in the audience were clapping and singing and had a great time, especially when you sent the greetings to the Australians!

Wayne and Ruth, AUSTRALIA

Everyone here at the Gold Coast really enjoyed the movie tonight, so I thought I'd drop you a line to let you know and also to say thank you for your efforts. It really was good to hear "Harmony" again. Can't wait until the whole world is at harmony.

Pat, AUSTRALIA

Just a note of thanks for the excellent film you put out for the Feast. Everyone here thought it was very well done. I can only imagine the number of hours you personally had to put into it. It was well worth it from the viewer's standpoint. Maybe you could pass on my greetings to the band for me. They looked so professional in the movie I could hardly believe it was the same group of guys that tell the same jokes so often that they have to number them. Sometimes even their hand movements were in tempo with the music!

Gary Brasco, Calgary, Alberta

Greetings. Please convey to the Ambassador students the deep appreciation of the Filipino brethren for the entertainment movie. It was first class and it was just too short. Thanks for a great performance.

Colin Adair and the Filipino brethren

Thank you for the Ambassador presentation (film) during the Feast with the "Young Ambassadors." A spectacular, inspiring, nostalgic, A.C. quality performance.

Pete Pulis, Roseburg, OR

I just wanted you to know how impressed I was with the "Young Ambassadors" tape which Ed and I viewed Wednesday morning. You are most kind to provide a copy, and as I mentioned, we will be playing

part of it for each of our Open House's as an introduction to Tournament House and the Rose Garden.

Walter Hoefflin, Tournament of Roses Manager

Congratulations on your efforts in the "Young Ambassadors Special." Excellent example of what can be done through television.

Guy Burke, Burke Communication Services, Altadena, CA

I'd like to thank all who took part in putting such a very wonderful show together. I really enjoyed it. Words seem insignificant in telling you the enjoyment your show brought. I know God loved it too. Thank you one and all and I'm already looking forward to your next show. You were all just great!

Elaine Tunstall, Latonia Lakes, KY

I wanted to drop you a line to let you know how the film was received here in Glens Falls. Well, to say the least, it was a smashing success! I really couldn't believe how they reacted to the entire film. They clapped at the end of each song and even sang along with the "play-a-long"! And of course Big Beak was a big hit with the kids. The amount of compliments received could not be counted. I'm sure that everyone in the show really appreciated the opportunity to be a part of it.

Looking forward to an even bigger and better show next year. I must have had 50 requests for a sound track of the film!

David Myers, Lathan, NY

Let me congratulate you and those associated with you on a very fine talent film which we viewed during the Feast. It was encouraging to see such professionalism in production, arranging, choreography and engineering--all combining to produce something uplifting to the Church, through some fine performances.

Randall Bouchier, Lilydale, Victoria, AUSTRALIA

--FESTIVAL OFFICE

WHY THE 1980 FEAST WAS THE GREATEST EVER!

From around the nation, hundreds of letters have poured in expressing why the 1980 Feast of Tabernacles was indeed the best ever. Here are the reasons brethren gave:

Mr. Armstrong's Messages Via Microwave and Satellite Hookup

Unmistakably the highlight of the 1980 Feast were the live transmissions of Mr. Armstrong's sermons to each feast site. This helped bind the whole Church closer together in one mind and spirit. It resulted in a tremendous feeling of unity and brought exhilaration and joy to thousands of members as they joined together in services across the nation and overseas.

Also, Mr. Armstrong's live sermons demonstrated his renewed health and vigor. Brethren could witness firsthand his strength and vitality, as well as hear his strong, clear voice. They were encouraged and thrilled to see their prayers on his behalf being answered.

Feast Sermons and Sermonettes

Letter after letter mentioned how brethren were inspired by this year's messages. As a matter of fact, in most cases the spiritual aspects of the Feast meant more than the physical!

Sermons were in harmony with the meaning of the Holy Days. They contained relevant instruction, encouragement as well as bringing a vivid picture of the Millennium. Members were moved to want to change, grow and overcome.

A new dedication and commitment to the Work is apparent from their comments. The sermons have helped brethren to more fully understand their calling and responsibility.

Unity and Fellowship

Brethren everywhere recognized a new unity, harmony and a spirit of giving. Once again there was genuine love and outgoing concern.

There was a return to the joyful camaraderie so characteristic of God's people. Feast sites were permeated by a feeling of togetherness--of being one family. A feeling of brotherhood was very noticeable--one mind, one accord and one body.

Many members also commented on the friendliness, cooperation and positiveness present. There was a real caring one for another. Fellowship this year was enjoyed in peaceful, relaxing and friendly surroundings.

Organization

Well-organized activities also helped to make this year's Festival special.

Brethren were delighted by the superb presentation of fine entertainment through the "Young Ambassadors" film. The reflection of true values in the performances left a deep impression. They also enjoyed the other activities organized for them.

The mail indicated in every way that God's Church is truly once again back on the right track--a one-way track into God's Kingdom!

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

PURCHASE OF FESTIVAL SHOWS AND BLANK VIDEO TAPES

During the Media Awareness classes in Pasadena, it was asked if the ministers could purchase 3/4" video tape, Betamax video tape and VHS video tape in blank form and/or with the Festival Shows dubbed on. The answer is yes, and we have worked out the following costs, descriptions and procedure for you:

Tape Format and Costs3/4" U-MaticBetamax:VHS:

60 minute	\$20.68	L-250	\$10.60	T-30	\$12.72
30 minute	14.37	L-500	13.78	T-60	14.31
20 minute	14.94			T-120	18.55

Description

CP-107: HWA Opening Night--36 minutes
 CP-104: "Meet the Press" Philippines with Stanley Rader--46 minutes
 SP-32: China--26 minutes
 SP-37: Feast Entertainment with the Young Ambassadors--69 minutes
 CP-108: Even From My Youth--27 minutes

Please note that the above shows are still available for borrowing if you do not wish to purchase.

Procedure for Ordering

1. Please indicate on a piece of paper the quantity, type of tape, speed of tape (Speed applicable on Betamax and VHS only) and whether you want any of the above shows dubbed on.
2. Please attach check made out to "Herbert W. Armstrong."
3. Please include your name, address (please give a street address as we cannot ship to a P.O. Box) and telephone number.
4. Please send written requests to:

Worldwide Church of God
 TV Department
 392 W. Green
 Pasadena, CA 91123
 ATTN: Jon Hicks

5. Please allow 2-3 weeks for delivery.

--Larry Omasta, Media Services

ON THE WORLD SCENE

SOUTH WEST AFRICA--THE SHOWDOWN NEARS: Sixty years of South African trusteeship over neighboring South West Africa (Namibia in today's parlance) is nearing an end. But how it comes to an end could well determine the economic life of the entire Western world.

South Africa has been under increasing African and Communist bloc pressure in the United Nations to divest itself of the desolate, but mineral-rich territory. A showdown is definitely at hand, but a stalemate still persists between the U.N. and Pretoria as to how to proceed toward independence. The fly in the ointment is how to deal with SWAPO--the Communist-backed guerrilla group that South African forces have been

battling back and forth across the SWA-Angola border for years. The war has steadily escalated, with an estimated 15,000 South African troops now in SWA, many stationed in the border area.

A high-level U.N. delegation was in Pretoria last week, but returned to New York empty-handed. U.N. officials claim they have met South African Foreign Minister Røelef ("Pik") Botha's earlier objections to their cease-fire proposals--withdrawal of South African and SWAPO forces to predesignated bases or areas, a demilitarized zone at the border and U.N.-supervised elections. However, South African officials state they still have a need for reassurance of U.N. impartiality--and with good reason. The U.N. has not gone back on its long-held endorsement of SWAPO as the "sole legitimate representative of the Namibian people."

It is doubtful that a U.N. police force would act impartially, since South Africa is the U.N.'s favorite whipping boy. It is also doubtful that U.N. forces could adequately police the long border, or keep SWAPO guerrillas confined to their bases. Above all, Pretoria feels that SWAPO squads would be left free to intimidate voters into voting their way, in much the same manner that Robert Mugabe's soldiers did in Zimbabwe.

SWAPO's power and influence is said to have grown a lot over the last two years. Experts predict a SWAPO victory at the polls, intimidation or not. Thus Pretoria is faced with the prospect of yet another "liberated country" along its borders. This places South African Prime Minister Pieter Botha in a dilemma. An election victory by SWAPO leader Sam Nunoma, who admits to being a "white hater," could arouse white fears inside South Africa itself and call a halt to Botha's internal reform plans.

If South Africa does not finally agree to the independence timetable, there will be calls within the U.N. General Assembly, especially from Nigeria, to have the Security Council levy selective economic sanctions against South Africa itself, at the very least a call for the end to further investments in the country. Such calls have been heard before, but have never gotten anywhere because of the certainty of a veto in the Security Council by one or more of the Western "Big Five" nations--the U.S., Canada, Britain, France and West Germany--all major trading powers with South Africa.

This time there is less likelihood of a veto, since the "Big Five" have been doing most of the negotiating for the U.N. with Pretoria. Also, Nigeria, a growing oil power and major supplier to both the U.S. and Britain, is prepared to use its considerable leverage (threat of an oil cutoff) to assure there will be no veto. (Pretoria, if it can be accused of stalling on the issue, at least wanted to postpone any U.N. action until after the West German and U.S. elections. The South Africans were counting on victories by Franz Josef Strauss and Ronald Reagan to hopefully shore up faltering support in the U.N. They still have some hope with regard to Mrs. Thatcher's government.)

Sanctions, if enacted (and adhered to) will hurt the Western industrialized world considerably, especially if they go beyond merely a call for a halt to investments (or even disinvestments) to an actual trade boycott. Many African nations whose trade and transportation lifelines go out through South Africa would be damaged even more--which is probably the only reason why sanctions might be of a limited nature at first.

Strangely, America's U.N. Ambassador Donald F. McHenry told me privately today [Thursday, 30th], after a Town Hall speech he gave in Los Angeles, that assertions of U.S. and Western world dependence upon Southern Africa for minerals was largely South African "propaganda" and that "we are not nearly as dependent as people think."

The facts--see the September, 1980 PLAIN TRUTH article, "World Crisis Over Minerals"--are clearly otherwise.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau