

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

NOVEMBER 7, 1980

DATELINE JERUSALEM: MR. ARMSTRONG MEETS MIDEAST LEADERS

Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong and Mr. Stanley R. Rader were received today (Nov. 3rd) by Prime Minister Menachem Begin.

Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Rader arrived several days ago from Cairo where they had met with ranking members of the Egyptian government to discuss various efforts of the Egyptian people to bring about peace in the Middle East and better understanding with its neighbor Israel.

In a forty-five minute televised meeting with the Prime Minister of Israel, Mr. Armstrong expressed his concern that nothing should prevent the people of Israel and its neighbors from achieving its goals of a lasting peace for the entire area.

Mr. Armstrong and the rest of his party will return to Cairo on Sunday (Nov. 9th) where another televised meeting will take place, this time with President Sadat.

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Letters of Appreciation for Ministerial Refreshing Program

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Through this note I want to join all the others who have been in on the "Refreshing Program" in expressing my sincere appreciation and heartfelt gratitude for having been given the opportunity.

I am awed when I think of all the sessions--how they all dovetail with each other with just the right subject and content. We truly needed each and every one--including the Defensive Driver's Course.

The awe I feel is the realization that only God could have worked out such a balanced and meaningful program.

Coupled with this--God's wonderful spirit that has been so evident with everyone--love, harmony, unity, warmth, real brotherhood. We have had another pre-millennial feast.

To make the picture complete we have been blessed to have had this opportunity--not in some Babylonian city--but right here at God's own college. The beautiful grounds, buildings; warm, happy, cheerful students and employees are an inspiration in themselves. God's spirit is certainly here.

The men who have not yet had this opportunity have something very special and wonderful to which they can look forward.

We can now go back full, and hopefully be sufficiently yielded to God so that He can and will use us in imparting what we have learned and had reaffirmed to us to God's people in a very inspired and enthusiastic manner.

Thank you, Mr. Armstrong, for your persevering faithfulness, loyalty, and dedication to God, His truth and wonderful way of life. Anyone who has God's spirit cannot help but see, by your fruits (past and present accomplishments), that you are God's one and only true Apostle

We love and pray for you daily. Your children in Christ,

Don and Madeline Billingsley

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

We want to take this opportunity to thank you very much for the encouragement and good solid "meat" of the 4th Refreshing Programme session. The Church and ministry worldwide can only be strengthened and more cleansed by such a project.

It's reassuring to see the classes so firmly based on the bedrock of Scripture and to know that what we are hearing has your approval. Thanks again.

Kerry and Anne Gubb

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

We have just completed Refreshing Program #4. It has been an exhilarating experience. This is undoubtedly God's way of speaking to His ministry through you and the dedicated loyal servants at Pasadena. It has been a delight to see the unity, harmony, and friendliness of one and all. Thanks to God and you for making these trunk-of-the-tree classes available to us.

My wife and I thank you for hosting us on the most beautiful campus in the world. The generosity and hospitality was overwhelming.

Your strong leadership was very evident and very much respected and appreciated! The staff teaching us followed through wholeheartedly on your instructions to us in all subjects.

We also enjoyed and profited from being with the happy smiling students, having meals and contact with fellow ministers and their wives, and attending concerts in the superb Auditorium. We are inspired more than ever to be about our Father's business!

Roy and Tine McCarthy

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

What an inspiration the Ministerial Refreshing Program has been. Just a pity the three weeks seemed to pass by so quickly!

These classes have reinforced our faith that God is using you to prepare the Church as Christ's bride and that He is setting the

A Voice Cries Out: What's Wrong with Science and Technology!

The No. 1 problem in our sick
world is human survival!
What brought us to this supreme crisis?

Appeared in the Wall Street Journal November 3, 1980

WE NEED TO WAKE UP! Are we fiddling while the whole world is burning? Ignoring the CAUSES of frightening world troubles will not somehow just cause them to go away!

A madman in some place other than Moscow or Washington could now set off the NUCLEAR explosion that could erase all mankind from the earth! We cannot afford to bet our lives that we can TRUST the humans who *could* will be afraid to trigger that world cosmoicide!

Again I say, there has to be a CAUSE for every effect. Dealing with effects cannot solve the No. 1 problem of human survival! Until CAUSES are removed, survival of humanity hangs in the balance! What CAUSED the present supreme crisis in this country and the world?

We have covered a quick overview of education and of government. Now we focus on modern science and technology—later on business and industry, on organized labor and on religion. These are the basic facets of civilization that have made it what it is. Where have they gone wrong?

Our 20th-century world has looked with awe at modern science and technology. They have been viewed as the modern messiah to deliver the world from ignorance, poverty, disease and unhappiness—to solve all world problems.

Teamed with business and industry, science and technology have promised the magic push-button dreamworld of the three *Es*—leisure, luxury and license. Teamed with modern education, science has led us to believe we have matured beyond the need of God—we may now safely throw away the crutch of religion. These modern advances will provide all needs and banish all evils.

But what is the TRUTH?



HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

Modern science has failed utterly to reveal the purpose of human life, or explain its incredible potential! With modern education it remains in ignorance of the TRUE VALUES! It does not know the way to PEACE—whether world peace between nations or peace in the home and family unit. It has failed miserably to deliver the world from illiteracy, poverty, famine, disease, fears and worries, frustrations, unhappiness! It has not cured immorality, broken homes, crime, insanity—rather these have mounted.

A tree is known by its fruits. A realistic look at modern science and technology leads only to disillusionment. Their attention is confined to the realm of the material and the mechanical. But problems and evils are spiritual in nature. Peace, happiness and joy are spiritual values. Yet these basics of human welfare are not their concern. The incredible human potential is outside their field.

Looking further at their fruits we do find accelerating inventions, intricate mechanical devices, labor-saving mechanisms, spectacular entertainment and amusement productions.

But, then, we observe the failure to teach people to put added hours, days and weeks of leisure to beneficial uses.

Instead human nature has desired increasing idleness, aversion to work, covetousness, desire to "GET" more and more—and dissatisfaction with it if successful in its acquisition.

On the other hand, science and technology have not eradicated the frequently recurring evils of recessions, depressions, unemployment and inflation. Nor have they rescued adolescent frustration, staring a hopeless future in the face, turning to immorality, drugs, violence, and—too often—suicide.

After all, the principal contribution of science and technology to civilization has been the development of constantly more terrifying weapons of mass destruction! This has brought us to today's No. 1 problem—HUMAN SURVIVAL!

Science and technology are not evil in themselves but an important facet in a good civilization—if we had one. It is the materialistic CONCEPT—the approach to life and its functions and problems from the materialistic "GET" attitude instead of the spiritual "GIVE" attitude of outflowing LOVE.

For that reason modern science is a false messiah! It threatens to become the Frankenstein monster to destroy the mankind that produced it!

Before that happens, that great "Unseen Hand from Someplace" will intervene in world affairs and save humanity from itself! World PEACE is closer than you think! But it will have to come as something done *TO* mankind—not done *BY* self-seeking humanity! The world will have to be set on God's track—not a maudlin emotional or superstitious religion—but a TRUTH and way of life that MAKES SENSE and will CAUSE peace, happiness and eternal well-being!

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
Pastor General
Worldwide Church of God

We suggest the reader might like to read Mr. Armstrong's attractive booklet, *The Seven Laws of Success* which have been practiced by successful men of his acquaintance in finance and industry. Gratis on request. No follow-up. Also you may receive free—no subscription price—*The Plain Truth*, a magazine of UNDERSTANDING, full color, worldwide circulation, more than two million copies monthly in five languages. Address Worldwide Church of God, Pasadena, Calif., 91123, or call toll free (800) 423-4444. In California call collect (213) 577-5225.

Church firmly back on the track! There was certainly no attitude of division and suspicion, but a spirit of unity and togetherness.

The dedication of all the instructors was evident--and they did not teach their own ideas but the truths God has put into His Church through you, His Apostle.

What a change as well in the students, especially their appearance, friendliness and concern for God's Work. Thank you once again for a wonderful three weeks.

Andre and Eliza van Belkum

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

The Ministerial Refreshing Program has been terrific! The men conducting the program are representing you well and are following your example of putting in long hours of cheerful service and hard work. The politics and games are over now and it is clear that the ministry is more united than ever and deeply committed to doing our respective parts in backing you up and representing you as loyal ministers of Jesus Christ. Thanks for your guidance in this program. It is a means to the end as described in I Corinthians 1:10: "that there be no division among you; but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment."

Ron Lohr

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Thank you so much for the opportunity to come out on the Refreshing Program. It is such a blessing for the wives to be able to be with our husbands and to learn all the many ways to serve God's people better. Thanks again, Mr. Armstrong, for the beautiful example you have set for all of us.

Patty Lohr

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

I'd like to deeply thank you for the opportunity to be a part of the most recent Ministerial Refreshing Program. It has been the greatest shot in the arm, spiritually speaking, that I've received in a long time. I graduated a few years ago at a time when Ambassador College was not teaching the truth as God had revealed it to you. In three weeks, I was able to be as firmly grounded in God's truth as in the two and one-half years previously spent at Ambassador.

Godspeed, Mr. Armstrong, as you follow God's lead to finish the Work. We are behind you 100%.

Michael Grovak

Dear Mr. Tkach:

This is just a feeble attempt to express our appreciation for all that you have done to make our stay at Ambassador College as profitable and enjoyable as it has been.

We thank you especially for approving Mr. Blackwell's request to give us the opportunity to sit in on the Ministerial Refreshing Programme. We consider it a priceless experience and wish to assure you of our commitment to try to use the knowledge and information we have acquired for the greater glory of God and to the benefit of His people in our countries and wherever we may go. Of course, we also expect to grow spiritually, as well.

We hope, as time allows, to be able to repeat the experience one of these days. Thanks also to all the other instructors.

Allswell Alaiko, Nigeria
Carlton Gordon, Tasmania

"Thanks for the Memories..."

A poem and a card signed by the ministers and wives who attended the fourth Refreshing Program were sent to Mr. Armstrong and the Program's instructors. We are reprinting the poem for your enjoyment.

To: Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong and Messrs:

Joe Tkach	Glen Nice	Gene Hogberg
Dean Blackwell	Larry Salyer	Dexter Faulkner
LeRoy Neff	Carlton Green	Larry Omasta
Herman Hoeh	Stan Rader	Earl Reese
John Anderson	Ellis LaRavia	Stuart Meier
Robin Webber	Raymond McNair	Rod Matthews
Ralph Helge	Jim Snook	
Dick Burkey	Greg Albrecht	

Thanks for the memories ...

on that early Monday morn,

When everyone was hurrying and scurrying out the dorm.

*The program got off to an early start, tho' we could hardly believe the sight
Watching people eating breakfast, in the middle of the night!*

Thanks for the memories ...

the classes all were great!

Your labor of love is something we truly appreciate

*From "Office Systems" to "Job Descriptions", alas we wearily sat,
and listened of "Demons", "Divorce & Remarriage", while our backsides turned to fat!*

Thanks for the memories ...

some lighter moments by far,

Were learning to yield the right of way, and where to stop your car!

*If you were from outside the U.S. "This doesn't apply" brought some laughter
And let's not forget Mr. Blackwell's advice, "That's all it has to offer"!*

Thanks for the memories ...

some will continue to bring a smile.

*Like "rainbow suspenders" and glasses we're told, that are the latest thing in style.
A trip to the Blackwell's down memory lane, you wouldn't have believed what was there
And dinner each week with jokes overflowing, "With a chanca fora newa joba somewhere!"*

Thanks for the memories ...

the big one's and the small.

*But the small ones will be bigger if Mr. Green has his way at all!
A big one is the fellowship, the joys that friendships bring,
Another is the reams of notes, so we can all speak the same thing.*

Thanks for the memories ...

this is really the best of it,

*To be here when the lawsuit broke, we soon will not forget.
Though God delivered His people and won the brittle sate,
We must go right on fighting, until we win the war!*

Thanks for the memories ...

for the privilege you've given to us,

*To spend three weeks surrounded by the beauty of God's campus.
And most of all we'd like to share our deepest gratitude,
With you, Mr. Armstrong, our "father in the truth" thank you ...*

For The Memories

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

SANTA BARBARA, CA., LES McCOLM: Mr. Armstrong's Bible studies on tape have been really drawing attendance from those who have been lax in attending--especially those long-time members who have "heard it all."

PORTLAND EAST, OR., JIM HAEFFELE: There is in the Church a very harmonious attitude behind everything we teach, believe, and do. It was most apparent at the Feast this year. This only shows the rich fruit being produced as Christ continues to put His Church back on track.

KENT, WA., J. RICHARD PARKER: Everyone seemed to really enjoy this year's Feast. There were no major problems. Mr. Armstrong's messages were very well received.

MONTEREY, CA., RON REEDY: Tremendously different attitude toward the Feast this year.

SALEM, WA., DAVID MILLS: I have never before heard so many enthusiastic comments about all the fall holy days! It started with combined services for seven churches on Trumpets and continued on through the Last Great Day! Much thanks to Mr. Armstrong for both sermons during the Feast. They were powerfully delivered--and gratefully received by all of us. As the last words were being spoken, there was emotion and a realization that we are all one on the same team. All the brethren are most appreciative for these live hookups--thanks very much.

FRESNO-VISALIA, CA., ALTON B. BILLINGSLEY: The people are bouyant and exhilarated over such a wonderful Feast. We had one of the best Feast of Tabernacles we've had in many years. It is hoped the aura of that millennial atmosphere we just experienced will be with us a long time to come. The people are radiant--very happy.

MINNEAPOLIS NORTH, MN., LEONARD SCHREIBER: Everyone here really appreciated the documentary tape and the messages brought by Raymond McNair and Curtis May. It was great to have personal contact with Mr. Armstrong's G-II team.

LAKE CHARLES, LA., DENNIS DOUCET: The focus on the Work of the commission and on God's Apostle, and the unfeigned unity that exists from the top down has encouraged our people. Their hearts are in the Work.

FT. WORTH, TX., BOB SMITH: Mr. Rader's conversion, baptism and ordination have had significant impact upon the attitude of the brethren toward him. His positive, obvious involvement with Mr. Armstrong--as well as his burdening so much of the media pressure --have had a tendency to remove much of the former enigmatic aura which surrounded Mr. Rader. All were delighted with his fine update.

KANSAS CITY, KS., BRUCE GORE: Please express my appreciation to Mr. Rader for an advance copy of his new book. I am really enjoying reading it and have tried to whet the appetites of the brethren for it. I feel this book is going to have an enormous impact on the brethren by way of reassurance of the integrity, motivation and talents of the man God's Apostle chose to be his personal assistant in these last days.

LITTLE ROCK, AR., F. KELLERS: The people are excited about news from the Refreshing Program. Happy to know that Pasadena is looking again to God and the Bible, not knowledge of men.

CHICAGO, N.W., IL., ROY HOLLADAY: Attended the Refreshing Program in Pasadena. This was really a spiritual high. A number of people were sobered by Mr. Blackwell's sermon on baptism. I am counseling 5 or 6 for rebaptism.

DENVER, CO., RONALD KELLY: Everyone seems stable and fine--loyally supporting Mr. Armstrong in all his work.

RESEDA, CA., R. CLONINGER: Having good response to the waiting room program and newsstands--about 50% of the new subscriptions to PT coming from newsstands.

Feast in India Heightened By Minister's Visit

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

We in India want to thank you for the love and concern you have shown in sending a minister to travel half the world to deliver the "Opening Night Message" film. We have never had this privilege in the past. Either the film came late or we had to use the old film.

Mr. Rod Matthews, the only minister who traveled the farthest for the '80 Feast, disembarked at Bombay airport to hand deliver the film and immediately left for Sri Lanka. Every one at the Feast was benefited with the message from the Apostle of Christ.

Since all the members wanted the film screened again we showed it again when Mr. and Mrs. Rod Matthews joined us for the second half of the Feast.

We always pray for your health and strength. In case my wife and I visit the States for the Refreshing Program, we would love to meet you both again. With love, Your servant in Christ,

S. Kulasingam

Australian Grateful for Mr. Armstrong's Concern

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Greetings from Perth, Western Australia! As a single member of the Perth Church, I am writing to personally thank you VERY much for sending Mr. Waterhouse to Australia. By speaking to us on a Bible Study (30/7/80), a Sabbath (2/8/80) and again at the Feast of Trumpets, we have been given a triple blessing of high quality spiritual food!

Through Mr. Waterhouse, my sense of purpose and vision has been very much strengthened and made much more meaningful. It is amazing how subtle and damaging the watering down process in God's Church had become. There is now emerging a stronger, more powerful sense of purpose than ever before.

Mr. Waterhouse's visit has been very timely. God certainly knows best when and how to work through His trained servants. Praise be to God for the tremendous way He is working through you. Once again, thank you very much for your loving concern and care for us.

Noel Caro, Western Australia

Wants Feast Goers to Come Back

Dear Sir: Am sending a donation of \$40.00 to the Church. This was a nice group of Church members and they enjoyed themselves very much. I hope to have the Worldwide Church members come to my place again.

Pete Carmi, Wilson Hill
Resort, Osage Beach, MD

Member Recounts Visit to Pasadena

Dear Mr. Tkach:

When I was visiting Pasadena two weekends ago I regret that, because of our schedules, we two weren't able to have a friendly visit. I am now writing to express my feelings on the fine work you are doing and how the Church and the College radiates love and warmth which truly displays that God's Church is back on the right track. I thank you! Also all of our prayers were certainly answered concerning the Attorney General dropping California's lawsuit against the Church.

I attended the Auditorium P.M. service and heard some well delivered sermons, and while I was on campus, I was treated with much respect

from one of your truly dedicated ministers, Mr. Carlton Green. He even packed me a nice lunch before I took off on Tuesday. I felt very wanted and appreciated.

I have a lot of love and respect for you as you have helped my family and me out many times as I was growing. As I have matured in the Church, as did your children, I sometimes reminisce over the "good old days" where there was a lot of love and deep concern among everyone. I am now glad to see that we, as one body, united for one reason, are reaffirming our great goal and the "good old" memories are alive again. I am also proud to see that you are among what is left of the "good old" ministers and are still going strong. I thoroughly enjoyed my visit and am proud to be a part of this Great Work.

Lorraine Hitch, Tucson, AZ

Weekly Letter Comments

This week's comments show how readers of the October-November PLAIN TRUTH have found the articles uplifting, factual and helpful. Also, new and prospective members share their thrill and excitement in becoming a part of God's Church. Finally, students at Ambassador College are expressing gratitude for their opportunities and for the new direction the College has taken under Mr. Armstrong's leadership.

October-November PT Well Received

This latest issue of The PLAIN TRUTH (October-November) is really a "bomb." It is a real eye opener to all who will listen to the truth of the Gospel message. You editors and writers are really doing your job. It is marvelous how you present, among other things, the plain truth about the current political scene without being a bit facetious or unpatriotic, showing good, complimentary photos on the front page and being completely impartial to any of the principles.

James Pollard (Bentonville, AR)

I really enjoyed the article in the October-November Plain Truth magazine concerning race riots and the failure of the courts to punish the criminal.

The Jury system has a real problem when it has to deal with the facts of a case. Most juries don't listen to all the evidence given to them.

I also want to thank you for the many other articles that you have sent. They have been an inspiration to me. I can't begin to tell you how much that information has benefited me in my years. I am 71 years old and I can think very clearly.

Linus Ferguson (Akron, OH)

I just want to thank you firsthand for telling the world the plain truth about that Miami riot! Surely the voice and blood of McDuffie cries out from the grave to thank you for justice, at least by way of the printed truth. You (Mr. Armstrong) being a man of God, a

well-learned and longtime student of divine truth, a man of dignity and world esteem and a true humanitarian, have put the McDuffie/Miami riot issue into rich, bold language the world can understand.

James Berry (Clairton, PA)

I want to express my appreciation for your article on KIDS AND TV in the October-November 1980 issue of The Plain Truth. I liked how this article went into detail, especially the part where Bob Keeshan spoke about the effects of TV on a child.

Norma J. Hardee (Dover, NC)

I just had to write and commend you on the excellent magazine you publish. It is truly the Word of God. Whenever I feel depressed, I turn to the free unbelievable magazine and it just lifts me up. If only more people could see the light and practice what they read, then this world would be a paradise to live in. Keep up the excellent work.

Edward Sucheck (Avoca, PA)

Impressions of New Members

I want to let you know how thrilled I am to get to go to Church. I have gone for four Sabbaths and I enjoy it so much. The people are all so kind and friendly. Mr. Demarest is a wonderful minister. He is a man that you can really feel comfortable around. He is like a brother.

There is a lady that has for eleven years lived a mile from me, but we didn't know about each other. Now I go to Church with her. I am so happy about it.

Mrs. Jimmy Miller (Severna Park, MD)

I went to my first Feast of Trumpets this year. It was really good. If it weren't for the Church, I'd never be making new friends. Of course, learning the truth is the most important thing of all. The friendships are only good by-products or fruits of following God's laws.

Robert Metheny (Greenville, RI)

I'm so grateful to you all--you've changed my life! I've begun attending services in the Washington area. Everyone's so friendly!

Kevin Medwedeff (Vienna, VA)

I wish to tell you the good news: I have become a child of God! I am now a baptized member of the Worldwide Church of God. It makes me so happy to have found the right way of life. I am glad to know of God's sabbath, holy days and commandments. I have never felt so well.

Thank you, Mr. Armstrong, for your message and literature. I ask God to keep and strengthen you every time I think of you for you have helped me to see the right way.

Pauline Jackson (LaGrange, KY)

Grateful for Ambassador College

I am a new student here at Ambassador College this year and I just want you to know that "I have it!" I have been brought up in God's Church and have always taken the truth for granted. Since coming to College, I have learned so much that I am stunned! So much truth has been revealed to me and I am just trying my best to take it all in.

The teachers in class and the ministers at Bible study and church services are just fantastic! With God's help, they are really giving us all some real meat.

Becky Dayhoff (Pasadena, CA)

I am very grateful for the opportunity to attend God's College which He made possible through you (Mr. Armstrong). It is not accredited by the world but by God and that is all that really matters! I ask God that I may stay here as long as possible and be able to serve Him. All of the students including myself are very fortunate to be attending the College, especially since it is "back on track" and God is blessing it.

Maria Kosior (Pasadena, CA)

Now that I am a freshman at Ambassador College, the saying "back on the track" has a new meaning to me. In fact, this expression excites me. Looking at the growth the Church and College have made in the past two years is astounding. I'm looking forward to four years at God's College.

George Hague (Pasadena, CA)

This is the first time in a long time that I have been able to send in an offering for no reason! It is great. God has really blessed me financially recently and I am very grateful! Being a student isn't the most financially secure occupation, but being an Ambassador student has hidden benefits.

Susan Kopy (Pasadena, CA)

Mr. Armstrong, I just can't express how very much it means to me to be at Ambassador College. This is an opportunity and experience that is invaluable. I am learning so much both in and out of classes. I am forever grateful for this wonderful privilege.

Susan Sutter (Pasadena, CA)

--JOE TKACH, MINISTERIAL SERVICES

YOUNG AMBASSADORS SINCERELY APPRECIATED

I want to tell you how much I enjoyed those Young Ambassadors. That was the most wonderful performance I've ever seen. It really brought tears of joy to my eyes to see they are getting back to right and clean entertainment, so thank you Mr. Armstrong and I thank God so much for it....

Mr. & Mrs. Leaman Webb, Marion, IL

I'm in our motel now and had to sit down and write after seeing the talent show and Young Ambassadors film. This has been one of the most emotional and moving nights of my life. The youth of the future in God's Church have such a special quality about them. Their talent was pure and full of goodness. It's a wonderful thought that tomorrow's world will be filled with nice, clean and good music and dancing....

Mrs. Patricia Moody, Key West, FL

I want to thank you all for the very enjoyable, entertaining and uplifting show you presented for the brethren at the Feast. We at the Rapid City feast site felt as though we were part of the audience too, and all sang along when those in the real audience did.

We enjoyed every song and the scenery and costumes were so well planned. No wonder Mr. Armstrong was so enthusiastic for us all to see the show. Quality entertainment is few and far between nowadays. God's Spirit surely makes the difference. Thank you for your efforts.

Mrs. Charles Hillerson, Iowa

I am sorry that I did not write earlier, but anyway I know I just had to write to you all for making my feast such a special one this year by the lovely film presentation that you all made.

To me, the film was certainly the highlight of the feast activities and God knows how much I have enjoyed it. It certainly was so wonderful and marvelous that I can't find words to express myself. I was very moved by the entire experience of watching you all singing so happily on the beautiful lawns of the campus. And the dancing was excellent too. Who could forget the awesomely beautiful dancing in front of the lovely fountain? And all those songs from "Oklahoma," "Fiddler on the Roof," and "Sound of Music" (Edelweiss) were so zestfully sung. In fact, I can truly say there was never a dull moment.

As I have said, only God knows how much I have enjoyed the film. And only God knows how much I thank him for it! To me, the sight of the lovely people singing so happily and joyously amidst the marvelous surroundings, was a message on "what the Kingdom of God will be like" that was as powerful as any of the sermons I have heard.

So, thanks very much. May God bless you all richly as you continue to make use of your considerable talents to serve Him and further glorify His name.

Church Member, Malaysia

--FESTIVAL OFFICE

PASTOR GENERAL'S HOTLINE TAPES

Because of the change from Daylight Savings Time to Standard Time, the sun sets earlier and College employees only work until 4:00 p.m. on Fridays. For this reason, please be sure to call for the Hotline tape before 4:00 p.m. Friday so there will be someone available to play it for you.

MAIL TRENDS VERY ENCOURAGING

Quite often we are asked, "How is the mail doing?" Each week our mail readers report the trends in the mail, showing the response of the brethren and the impact of the Gospel message on the world. From time to time we will give you an overview of the comments we receive. We think you will find the present mail trends encouraging. Here is what the mail readers are finding:

Every week many of the brethren express their heartfelt love and support for God's chosen Apostle. Through Mr. Rader's visits to local churches, they are getting to know more about Mr. Armstrong's daily life and work. As a result, they appreciate even more deeply his dedication and sacrifice.

Mr. Armstrong's writings (and those of the other writers) continue to have an impact. Many comment on the uniqueness of The PLAIN TRUTH and our literature. They are amazed at many of the truths God has revealed to Mr. Armstrong; for example, the modern identity of Israel. Also, his book TOMORROW...WHAT IT WILL BE LIKE continues to receive positive comments.

Members and co-workers look forward with anticipation to Mr. Armstrong's monthly letters. They value the updates on prophecy. Commenting on the September letter, readers were inspired by his love and concern for the churches in Australia and around the world.

Listeners and viewers truly appreciate Mr. Armstrong's broadcasts and telecasts. They find the messages uplifting, encouraging, as well as informative.

The Bible study tapes on Paul's epistles are being enjoyed. Members especially like Mr. Armstrong's comments about his personal experiences.

Comments of praise for God's ministry continue to come in. Members value their ministers' dedication, loyalty, kindness and helpfulness. A number of long-standing members have expressed gratitude for the Church being back on track. And, almost every week we receive one or two letters from a person who left the Church and is now coming back.

Brethren very much enjoy the ministerial visits from Pasadena, especially those to smaller churches. They have been encouraged by the "State vs. Church" film. Also appreciated are the special holy day visits.

Church members are excited about the newspaper ads. Several members of the public have ended up requesting The PLAIN TRUTH and other literature as a result of the ads. One PT subscriber decided to specifically contribute toward the legal battle.

Finally, every week people write in to share accounts of their blessings with Mr. Armstrong. Some mention having been miraculously healed. Others describe how God has blessed them financially when they were faithfully tithing. A few relate trials of faith due to extended unemployment or low, fixed incomes, but show how God has always provided for them.

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

TO THE PEOPLE OF GOD'S CHURCH

Words fail to express our love and appreciation to the people of God's Church for your prayers and positive response. Our son, Wayne, is still in a coma, but is responding slowly. Please continue to pray with us for God's intervention.

We count it one of our richest blessings to be in this begotten family of God. We are overwhelmed by your concern in our time of need.

Warm Christian love,
Jim Chapman family

Editor's Note: Wayne fell from a scaffold last week while washing windows. The three-story fall to the pavement below resulted in a severely broken pelvis and other internal injuries, including a bruised brain. Your continued prayers are requested for his complete recovery.

BOOK PUBLISHING UPDATE

We are pleased to announce that Mr. Herbert Armstrong's book, THE MISSING DIMENSION IN SEX, and his totally new book, A VOICE CRIES OUT IN A WILDERNESS OF RELIGIOUS CONFUSION, will be published hardback, new style, very shortly. Present plans call for distribution to the bookstores under the Everest House name early next year. THE MISSING DIMENSION IN SEX is being redesigned, but will contain the original text. Mr. Herbert Armstrong plans to offer this book in his semiannual letter at the end of this year. Production of both books is underway at this moment, and printing quotes are being reviewed for what will be another big job.

Another piece of good news is that the "Bible Story," by the late Basil Wolverton, will be published by the Church in a new style three-volume set which will be made available to individual church members and families. These three volumes will contain all the original material and have a high-gloss color cover.

--Publishing Services

ON THE WORLD SCENE

AMERICA UNDER REAGAN: HOW MUCH CHANGE? Landslide '80 for Ronald Reagan could prove to be the crossroads election in American history. Will President-elect Reagan, who conducted his campaign, in part, as a "crusade" to get America moving again, be able to restore America's pride overseas, and to free the American people from the shackles of a suffocating bureaucracy?

Mr. Reagan certainly received an overwhelming mandate to make such an attempt at national restoration. Not since the election of 1932 had an incumbent president suffered such a massive repudiation at the polls. Along with Mr. Carter, several pivotal liberal senators were also buried under the wreckage. Republicans wrested control of the U.S. Senate, something they have not had for the past 26 years.

The scope of the landslide stunned the pollsters. Only the Lou Harris agency came close to predicting the outcome. Many experts now believe that Mr. Reagan probably won the televised "Great Debate," held one week before the election, by a bigger margin than previously thought. The very magnitude of Reagan's victory (over 8 million more popular votes and 489 electoral votes to Mr. Carter's 49) indicate there were many silent Reagan and Reagan-leaning supporters, those who perhaps never betrayed their intentions to the pollsters. ABC's nationwide "exit poll" of voters revealed perhaps the true state of Mr. Carter's unpopularity. Surveyors found that if the race had only been between the President and independent candidate John Anderson, Mr. Carter would have lost that one too--49% to 46%!

Of course it's much too early to tell whether Mr. Reagan will be able to put back together the pieces of America's shattered foreign policy. (Columnist George Will says it is a mistake to say Mr. Carter failed because he had no foreign policy. He had a foreign policy--so-called "human rights," scaling down U.S. defense requirements, a general appeasement of Communist imperialism. This the voters resoundingly rejected.)

The Soviets are certain to test Mr. Reagan somewhere soon, as they have done nearly all U.S. presidents. Will the Kremlin even take advantage of the 2 1/2 month Washington interregnum to forcibly put an end to the "Polish experiment?"

Mr. Reagan's talk of scrapping SALT II and forcing the Kremlin into a substitute SALT III deal is perhaps unattainable campaign rhetoric. The Soviets have striven hard to achieve at least military parity with arch-rival Washington and are not about to let their growing advantage slip now.

America's allies are in a quandary too. Even though there have been wide-spread calls for a return to U.S. free-world leadership, the reality is that the world has moved on since America's humiliation in Vietnam in 1975. It might be more difficult than earlier assumed for the U.S. to reassert its once-dominant role.

If the lame duck administration fails to resolve the Iranian hostage crisis before January 20, how does Mr. Reagan accomplish the same, while not compromising American honor and not appearing to Arab states in the Gulf to be rearming their hated Iranian enemy?

It is on the domestic, specifically economic, front that the new President will have his most difficult time. How to cut taxes, the inflation rate and unemployment while at the same time increasing defense spending and striving for a balanced budget may prove impossible--certainly in the short term.

How much latitude will Mr. Reagan really have in executive affairs? The federal government bureaucracy is an elephantine beast running out-of-control, a power unto itself, beyond the efforts of any one President or Administration to reform it. The most that the G.O.P. has done in recent years is to try to manage better--"keep the damage in check," said one Republican--whole departments that they, down deep, believe shouldn't have been created in the first place. "It's very hard to change things in this country: There are special interests," says Anthony Lewis of the New York Times, who adds that it will be painful for Mr. Reagan to even cut back the growth in the Federal budget.

Mr. Reagan will be the first President in history to spend \$2 billion a day! He speaks only of fractional budget cuts, and of cutting "waste and fraud." It's not likely that a single major spending program will be eliminated.

The former California governor was elected with the assistance of the so-called "Moral Majority," a growing movement of concerned church-going Americans indignant over the government's sponsorship of morality-debasing programs. But it is seriously doubtful whether the new administration can really change the broad course of moral downslide the country is on. Slow it down perhaps, or balance it off with such proposals as voluntary prayers in public schools. (We're not likely to see any more Administration-sponsored farces such as the "White House Conference on Families.")

The self-centered "Me Generation" ethic is not likely to be replaced in America's big metropolitan cultures. The United States, says historian Walter Lacquer, is now enveloped in an "anarchic tide of egoism." It is just like in the time of the judges in ancient Israel--"in those days there was no king in Israel [and America has suffered from a lack of true leadership]; every man did what was right in his own eyes" (Judges 21:25).

Strong leadership at the top can only do so much; the people themselves must turn from their self-indulgent course. Adds Mr. Lacquer: "Even the most talented leaders will be unable to save democracy for a society whose supreme value is satisfaction of the ego."

One wonders too what impact the new Administration will have upon various special-interest groups, including minorities, favored by the populist

Democrats. (But Mr. Reagan's proposal for a separate wage structure for youths below the minimum wage should help more inner-city teenagers find jobs.)

The "Moral Majority" people and other elements of the so-called "New Right" will try to challenge the debasing--and often government-sponsored--trends eating away at the social fabric, primarily the family structure. One thinks of the plethora of such issues and the inertia behind them--gay rights, ERA, forced integration and reversed discrimination policies.

Mr. Reagan himself gave indication of what he and his supporters are up against when he told an interviewer during the campaign that society should not condone the "gay rights" movement. Asked whether his objection to homosexuality was based on the Bible, he answered, "Well, you could find that in the Bible it says that in the eyes of the Lord, this is an abomination."

Whereupon the interviewer replied: "But should that bind the rest of the citizens who may not believe in the Bible?"

A pop-country song rocketed to the top of the charts earlier this year, called "America." Its country-rock singer, trying to lift up America's lagging spirits, noisily--and nasally--intoned:

"The eagle's been a flyin' slow, and the flag's been flyin' low. And a lotta peoples' sayin' that America's fixin' to fall." To which he disagreed, claiming that once again, "We're walkin' real proud and we're talkin' real loud again."

And the future? The singer proclaimed that "We're going to put our feet back on the path of righteousness and then, God bless America again." But do Americans even know where that path lies? Organized religion isn't supplying the answer.

Mr. Reagan made an emotional and obviously sincere appeal for God's help and guidance at the end of his convention acceptance speech in Detroit last July, something his "born again" predecessor probably wouldn't have thought of doing. It will be an interesting new team in Washington to watch.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau