

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

International News

News From Radlett Office Possibly the first Feast of Tabernacles since the days of the early apostles--perhaps the first Feast ever--is now being planned for the island of Malta. This small island, lying just to the south of Italy in the Mediterranean, is soaked in history. Although now independent, it was, for many years, one of the strategic sea gates controlled by the British. Mentioned in Acts 28:1, this was also the island on which Paul was shipwrecked on his way to Rome.

The Feast is to be held in the town of Rabat, a very central location. Total attendance is expected to be 160 people, and the members throughout the Mediterranean are all looking forward to meeting the 100 or more visitors who are planning to join them.

Mr. Armstrong's full-page ads have now appeared on six separate occasions in the large national papers of Fleet Street. In spite of being message rather than response oriented, they have prompted over 2,200 people to write in requesting The PLAIN TRUTH. They also prompted a reaction from a very few individuals who wrote direct to the newspapers in complaint. Unfortunately, due to the very traditional stance adopted by some of the national dailies, both the Daily Mail and Daily Telegraph have refused to handle any more of our advertising as a result. These are two of the highest response papers we had and obviously we are currently requesting a full explanation of their reasons for the ban--though under English law, they are under no obligation to comply.

Holy Day attendance for Pentecost was up six percent in the U.K., and the offering was 21% greater than last year. Our mail income was 19% higher than May 1980, giving a year-to-date figure of +27%.

Update From Manila God has continued to bless His Work here in the Philippines in the last two months, after it suffered some setback in income last March. The May income was 43% over last year, and the year-to-date increase has now moved up to 20.5%. It is hoped that the next month will continue the upward trend.

Some very good responses have been received from PLAIN TRUTH readers. This shows that we are reaching a good quality readership, and the potential for growth is big. With the fine financial backing from the Canadian office, we will be able to increase our PLAIN TRUTH circulation here to 70,000. At present there are 42,221 subscribers. A stepped-up newsstand distribution campaign will be carried on once the extra magazines arrive.

From January until end of May this year, we have had a total of 36 baptisms. This brings the total number of baptized members in the Philippines to 2,199.

April and May being "summer" months in the Philippines, several Summer Educational Program (S.E.P.) camp-outs were held at five sites. Two were on the main island of Luzon, two in the Visayan group of islands, and one on Mindanao. All in all, about 200 youths in God's Church attended the program.

Appreciation for the Refresher Program

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

This letter is to thank you very much for the opportunity my wife and I had to attend the ninth refresher program in Pasadena. It has been three and a half years since we were last in Pasadena and the change in the atmosphere we experienced showed us that there has been a major change towards both unity and enthusiasm for God's Work at headquarters. The students also seem to be a very happy and turned-on group and are good ambassadors for the college.

We really appreciated the well-prepared and practical lectures that were given by those who are striving to support and uphold you in every way. The three weeks of classes were very inspiring and helpful and will go a long way towards bringing about that unity in the ministry worldwide so that we might all speak the same thing.

Thank you also for coming to Australia and spending time with us despite your busy schedule. We were very grateful to you for the very profitable ministerial conference where we all had the opportunity to see and hear from you, as well as to hear you preach at services.

Thanks again for everything Mr. Armstrong. We need your continued guidance and leadership in our lives so that we can all become more profitable in supporting you in this end-time Work.

Bill and Daphne Sidney

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

My wife and I would like to express our appreciation for the opportunity to attend the tenth session of the Ministerial Refresher Program. This was our first time to be on the Ambassador College campus in Pasadena. The college was very beautiful, but there was something much more beautiful than the college campus. That was the positive attitude of the ministers, and how each one is back of you 100%.

The great highlight of the trip was being able to see and hear you three times while we were there. We really appreciated your taking time from your busy schedule and coming to one of our classes and instructing us.

We also want to thank Mr. Tkach and the other instructors that took the time to instruct us in God's way of life. Mr. Armstrong, these men are very loyal and dedicated. They were holding your hands up high. These classes really meant a lot to my wife and me as they will help us to assist our minister much better in our local area.

Don and Melvena Thurman

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Zelda and I would like to thank you for instituting the Ministerial Refresher Program. We had the opportunity to attend session ten and felt it was very profitable and enjoyable. The instruction and fellowship were truly refreshing and we are looking forward to attending the next round of the refresher program.

We would also like to thank all the members of the Ministerial Services team for their efforts and attitude of service. The classes and social activities were well-organized and we really appreciated the genuine spirit of hospitality extended to us.

It was especially inspiring to hear from you on several occasions and to see your continuing zeal for God's Work. Through you Christ has certainly restored a spirit of unity and oneness in doctrine in His Church.

Michael and Zelda Hanisko

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Greetings from Edmonton, Alberta. My wife and I arrived home renewed and recharged after spending the past three weeks in Pasadena as part of the eleventh refresher program class.

We were both very impressed with the straightforward manner in which the well-researched and factual lectures were presented. The program was far better than any conference I have attended. Dr. Hoeh's comment regarding reaching out for understanding with one hand while keeping the other "...firmly wrapped around the trunk of the tree..." summed it up.

Mr. Armstrong's direction and guidance was evident at all times. The desire to work and build carefully on the foundation God has used him to build for this era of the Church was once again evident at headquarters among students, faculty and ministry.

We're grateful that Mr. Armstrong was able to speak to us personally on three occasions. He sounded great! We remember him each day, and know that his presence on campus is going to make a difference for everyone there and for those of us in the field. We're looking forward to our next opportunity to be in Pasadena, and we'll be thinking of you daily in your responsibilities as you assist Mr. Armstrong.

Robert J. Millman

Dear Mr. Tkach:

My wife and I wish to express our heartfelt thanks for being permitted to attend the eleventh session of the Ministerial Refresher Program. We know that it is expensive for the Church to feed and house all of us and to take care of the transportation of those full time in the Work. We know also that Mr. Armstrong and you and the staff realize that no price tag can be put on our all speaking the same thing. We will cherish that three weeks of intensive training, thankful that each instructor gave of himself to bring us into unity under Christ.

We will strive to be a better team in service to the local flock here in Tampa, Florida. This teaching will enable us to assist Mr. Lohr more competently as he pastors our local church. Thank you again for allowing us to have this specialized training. Only God and Christ know the real value to His Work of bringing in not only the full-time ministry, but we local church elders and our wives as well!

Bill and Marty Royer

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Thank you for allowing us to participate in the eleventh refresher program. Maybe those of us who are not Ambassador graduates couldn't be "refreshed"--but we could be "infused!" Words cannot tell you what it was like to see the campus for the first time or to partake of a three-week feast of learning. Our prayers are that we use it with wisdom.

Everyone was so considerate and competent--from the staff who kept the apartment to those who aided Mr. Green in overfeeding us. Please convey our thanks to every department.

Dick and Doris McCall

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Thank you very much for the privilege Barbara and I experienced in being able to attend the tenth session of the Ministerial Refresher Program. Once again it is a thrill to be on the Pasadena campus, especially now that Mr. Armstrong is there and it once again is "headquarters." It was inspiring to hear from the men whose loyalty to God and His Apostle has stood the test of time and whose approach is simply to support and back Mr. Armstrong in the Great Commission.

It was encouraging to meet and talk with many of the students and imbibe of the "Ambassador atmosphere" we knew from our own college days in Bricket Wood. It was great to reminisce with old friends and fellow labourers in the Work, and equally valuable to get to know those who had previously just been names to us and find the same Spirit.

Barbara and I wish to express our deep gratitude to Mr. Armstrong, yourself and your staff for the whole experience.

Bill and Barbara Hutchison

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

MACON, GA--F. OTTO LOCHNER: We are being deluged with requests to attend God's Church. Old time PM's and new ones are calling and asking to be counselled. Not able to catch up, especially when one visits and discusses baptism in detail. Three baptisms last week; seven total for the month.

CHILLICOTHE, OH--DAVE TREYBIG: Have had a number of new people come as a result of knowing others who took The PLAIN TRUTH magazine. When one of the group finally wrote in for a visit, he found out there was

now a church in Chillicothe. He spread the news to his friends who were already taking The PLAIN TRUTH. Have about 12 new PM's from this one source!

MONTGOMERY, AL--PAUL KURTS: PM activity has picked up in the last few months. I am counselling eight people for baptism at the present. The local Church is growing and members are really finding joy in serving one another through the various activities the Church is able to have. Mr. Armstrong's tapes continue to inspire all and we all look forward to each new one. They are so inspiring to the whole church.

CHARLESTON, WV--STEVE BOTHA: A very upbeat time in the Church. baptisms are running way ahead of even last year--which was a good year for church growth. I am personally very happy Mr. Armstrong chose to reprint Dick Armstrong's article on child behavior at Sabbath services. A tremendous reinforcement of what we have been striving for.

EVANSVILLE, IN--C. FRED BAILEY: Mr. Waterhouse's visit was very much appreciated by the congregation and the strong attendance expressed that affection. Thanks for the continued flow of strong articles in both The PLAIN TRUTH and GOOD NEWS.

YOUNGSTOWN, OH--EUGENE NOEL: The Church is very excited about the material from the refresher program, and still on a spiritual high from Mr. Waterhouse's recent Bible study.

MICHIGAN CITY, IN--RAND MILLICH: Attendance at Sabbath services has continued to increase. The brethren in both Michigan City and Elkhart enjoyed hearing the update on Mr. Armstrong's and the Work's activities when Mr. Larry Salyer visited in the area on his way to S.E.P.

PHILADELPHIA, PA--CARLOS E. PERKINS: The brethren are particularly appreciative of Mr. Armstrong's Bible study tapes. But many are fearful of travelling at night, and financial hardships are causing many who would like to attend these studies not to be able to do so. The cities are becoming filled with crime and people are cautious.

RALEIGH, NC--MIKE BOOZE: The overall trend of the Work in this area continues to be positive. Sabbath service attendance figures continue to be very good, and Bible study attendance continues to hold steady at above 80% of those able to attend.

GARDEN GROVE, CA--TERRY MATTSON: Brethren realizing more and more the seriousness and importance of their calling. Many of the things that Mr. Armstrong and the ministry have been preaching are beginning to sink in.

Weekly Letter Comments

Brethren Appreciate the Example of God's Apostle

Thank you, sir, for all your hard work and dedication, and for your loyalty to God's Laws and His way of life. Because of your labors we are able to enjoy the truly good life and have hope in a world full of frustration and disappointment. We give thanks to God everyday for you, and for all of your efforts. Also, we realize that without God's

hand guiding you and His Work, we could do nothing. Keep on doing the Work, Mr. Armstrong: We need you. Every day we pray that God will bless you with strength and power.

Mr. & Mrs. S.W. (Burnsville, MN)

This is just a note to say that we here keep up fervent prayer each day for your protection, health, strength, courage and endurance--all to be given in greater measure than ever.

Thank you from our hearts for God's precious truths which you have given us and for your love, encouragement and guidance which we need. Also, thank you for being the strong, faithful father in the faith God has placed over us. May God give you the spiritual, mental and physical strength to take His Gospel into all the world, and to protect you from Satan.

Mrs. T.C. (Republic of South Africa)

Thank you very much for the great love that you have for us. You give us so much of your time and life when you write those inspiring letters and encouraging, instructive articles.

We know that you kneel before the throne of God to pray for us. We want you to know that we love you and always pray for you, thanking God for providing a leader that is unselfish and concerned both for us and the whole world. We know God hears us and answers our prayers because you are still going strong and will continue to do so until we finish this great Work.

Mr. & Mrs. C. L. (Houston, TX)

Readers Hunger for Work's Literature

Thank you for keeping me supplied with literature. I really enjoy all of it. Sometimes I get behind in my reading, but I will not just skip over something to be able to get it out of my way. I look at it like this: if God gave you (Mr. Armstrong), or your associates, time and energy to expound His wisdom and explain His plan, then I can certainly find time to read and completely study the articles that have been written.

A.H. (Venice, CA)

Your booklets are just priceless to my family. I have taught them from these booklets for ten years now and hopefully can continue. I reach out to nineteen people with your literature and praise God they are at last beginning to realize the teaching is valuable to their lives.

M. & M.J. (Washington, UT)

Thank you for sending me your wonderful magazine, The PLAIN TRUTH, which has given me such pleasure and enlightenment for sometime now. Thank you also for the splendid booklets I have received. I am eagerly awaiting several others I have requested, as well as the Bible course. I can truly say that these publications have taught me so much. Also, they have given comfort and hope for the future--they are really changing my life. Since I am retired, my time is my own, so I read them sometimes until three in the morning; I can't put them down.

H.S. (New Port Richey, FL)

Malachi 3:10 Being Fulfilled!

My husband and I have observed our first third tithe year. We've paid off a truck loan, received a huge tax return to buy another truck, and we're in the process of buying a house. Our food closet is overflowing. Our family differences have been overcome. My husband has gotten a job after not working since last Feast of Tabernacles. We have a beautiful new daughter and on and on it goes. God has truly rewarded us for obeying His tithing laws.

Mrs. J.E. (Dover, OH)

My wife and I are in our first third tithe year. God is not only providing all our physical needs, but He has also blessed us with many answers to prayer. He has healed us and our son. My wife has just been healed of appendicitis without doctors, drugs or surgery. God has opened our minds to more spiritual knowledge. He has provided opportunities for us to learn to serve others. Also, He has blessed us with some trials (growth opportunities) and has brought a long standing situation to a head where it will be solved. God is indeed bringing Malachi 3:10 to pass in our lives.

R. & C.S. (Joplin, MO)

Mr. Armstrong, as I send in God's tithes this morning, I cannot help think how God has blessed me in this third tithe year.

As I started this year, it sure looked bad financially. I had lost a house rental, and picked up an extra house payment. However, I trusted God and knew that if we seek first His Kingdom, the physical things would be given to us. Today I have more money in the bank than I have ever had, and I have been able to help other people around me more with physical things than ever before.

I can only thank God, you (Mr. Armstrong) and God's ministry for the help in teaching us and making God's truth plain in our so often deaf ears.

J.I. (Pittsville, MD)

--JOE TKACH, MINISTERIAL SERVICES

ENCOURAGING RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORK IN THE U.S. CONTINUESDramatic Increase in Number of Telephone Calls

There has been a dramatic increase in the number of telephone calls coming over our WATS lines during the last several months. We have seen a 46% year-to-date increase as of the end of June.

Calls come in our WATS lines for a variety of reasons, but this increase can be attributed mainly to literature requests as a result of Mr. Armstrong's telecast. When looking at the call volume for the telecast alone, we see a 243% increase year-to-date! As a result of this growth, we have added six new phone lines in order to increase our capacity for handling the additional calls.

The volume of calls is not the only growth that is encouraging. Those calling seem more excited about the telecast than several years ago. They

are showing more curiosity and interest than callers did five, six or seven years in the past.

We are presenting a few of the comments that have been heard recently on our phones to help you see the picture the way our telephone operators are seeing it:

I saw Mr. Armstrong for the first time this past Sunday. He covered the topic of "being born again." The way he explained the subject seemed so plain. I thought that I was a "born again" Christian, but now I wonder. Please send me the booklet.

I saw Mr. Armstrong for the first time on TV when he did the Easter program. I sent for the material he advertised (The PLAIN TRUTH ABOUT EASTER and THE BOOK OF REVELATION UNVEILED AT LAST). I was really shocked to find out that Christ didn't rise on Easter Sunday. I've been watching his program every Sunday since then.

I would rather listen to Mr. Armstrong than go to church....

I saw Mr. Armstrong for the first time last Sunday. He's really dynamite. I like the way he speaks from the Bible. The scriptures that are displayed while he speaks are so helpful. I really feel that he's a man of God.

These comments are very encouraging because they indicate that the telecasts are having a positive influence on the television audience. The feeling we are receiving from direct conversations over the phones is that Mr. Armstrong's new telecasts are inspiring viewers as never before.

Newspaper Ad Response

One of the recent Wall Street Journal ads in the Midwest titled, "Hostages, Arab Oil, Israel and the U.S.", resulted in over 500 telephone responses. This was almost four times the normal response to these ads. Advertised was the booklet UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY. Previously, when this ad was published on the East Coast, it drew the second largest response of all of Mr. Armstrong's ads.

One Million Additions to the File Expected

Over 400,000 new people were added to the mailing list this year as of the end of May. This is a 140% increase when compared to last year's additions for the same period. Based on the first five months' activity, by the end of the year we expect to have added nearly one million new names to the U.S. file.

Semi-annual Letter Response

In 11 days of response activity, 18,000 new subscribers requested the advertised booklet UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY. An unexpected and almost humorous trend emerged as well. Many misunderstood the use of the word "gratis" in the letter which referred to the advertised booklet. The word was capitalized for emphasis and so far over 500 have requested the book called GRATIS!

Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

POLAND: NERVOUS COUNTDOWN TO JULY 15 By the middle of this month, we should know whether Poland's surging tide of liberalism--the Poles call it "renewal"--is unstoppable, short of direct military intervention on the part of the Soviet Union.

On July 15, delegates will assemble in Warsaw for the annual congress of the Polish United Worker's Party, official name for the communist organization which runs the country. Under pressure from the Solidarity union movement, delegates to the congress are being selected by secret ballot, a process unheard of in the communist world.

Solidarity, launched after last year's workers' strikes in Gdansk and elsewhere, has deeply penetrated the party. About one-third of party members also belong to Solidarity. The Soviet Union fears that as a result of the secret voting, the remaining pro-Soviet hard-liners will be drummed out of party posts.

In April, Mikhail Suslov, the Kremlin's chief ideologist, paid a one-day visit to Poland's communist party Secretary Stanislaw Kania. He demanded that Kania scrap the secret ballot idea. Kania refused. His refusal triggered a wave of reaction from Moscow, denouncing Poland's liberalization, blaming much of it on "conspiratorial forces" undermining Poland from the West.

"Poland's democratic revolution," writes the journalistic team of Evans and Novak, "now confronts the Kremlin with an impossible dilemma: Invade this troublesome nation, or else permit its dramatic transformation within the Soviet empire."

The Soviets, it is widely believed throughout Poland, are manipulating the economic misfortunes in the country, slowly strangling the economy, producing the shortages of consumer items in an attempt to bring the Poles to heel. The Poles are taking all this in stride, even making jokes about it. (A current Polish joke has it that gasoline is in such short supply not only because Moscow holds up oil shipments, but because Poles are hoarding gasoline for Molotov cocktails with which to greet Soviet invaders.)

Nobody in Poland believes that the Soviet economic noose will strangle the revolution. "Soviet bully-boy tactics no longer work here," observe Evans and Novak, writing from Gdansk, adding that an "armed Soviet intervention would almost certainly bring a bloodbath, from both guerrilla warfare and resistance by Polish army units from the regiment level down." That leaves Moscow with only one alternative, they report: "Permitting the keystone of its empire to evolve into a Poland that, while not seeking to leave the Warsaw Pact, is becoming a social democratic state in everything but name."

Moscow's not-so-subtle pressure is only intensifying the average Pole's contempt for the Soviet Union and Soviet-style socialism. (In his 1972 book East Europe in Search of Security, author Peter Bender describes the Polish people as "restless, emotional, freedom-loving sometimes to the point of anarchy, and utterly non-communist.")

Polish resolve confronts the Kremlin, concludes Evans and Novak, with "the most important political development since 1945, with unmeasurable consequences for this tragic continent and the world."

Curiously, the Soviets are losing their grip in Eastern Europe at the same time they are scoring sizeable propaganda successes in Western Europe. For example, it is now a toss-up as to whether the U.S. will be able to persuade its continental allies to back up NATO's December 1979 decision to upgrade nuclear forces in Western Europe. The tide of neutralism in the Low Countries and West Germany continues to rise.

The Soviet leadership, sometime in the future, might see that it is to its apparent advantage to encourage this process of gradual coalescing of forces in Eastern and Western Europe--or "Finlandization." Notes political affairs analyst William Pfaff:

"No fundamental change in the situation of Poland, or of the region, is imaginable without a realignment of security arrangements in all Europe. If Poland were to become internally autonomous, albeit communist, its ability to guarantee Russia's security would have to be underwritten by the other states of Central and Western Europe. Even a qualified Soviet military withdrawal from Poland would have to be matched by American withdrawals in Western Europe or changes in NATO deployment."

Mr. Brezhnev's days are numbered. What will his successor(s) do? Eastern Europe expert Richard F. Staar writes in his book, The Communist Regimes of Eastern Europe:

"The future of intrabloc relations will depend primarily upon the new Soviet leadership after Brezhnev has been removed or retires.... It is not inconceivable that a new group of Soviet leaders might decide in the future to purchase a West German exit from NATO by agreeing to the same status for East Germany, that is, withdrawal from the Warsaw Pact and some form of neutralization...these moves [could] materialize during the 1980s as part of a new overall European settlement."

Out of the present division of the continent could arise a new Europe--released from U.S. dominance, still offering security to the Soviet Union, but essentially standing on its own, finding a source of strength in its ancient traditions. Earlier this year, the Catholic Weekly of Australia reported from Vatican City that "Pope John Paul II, during an audience with more than 3,000 Yugoslavs, renewed his call for a united Europe including the Western European nations and the communist bloc countries."

Columnist Pfaff, in pursuing his theme of Finlandization, one which he writes about often, notes this: "Poland, Bohemia and Hungary have been coherent nations for 1,000 years. They have been Latin Christian nations for that long, which means that historically and culturally they have looked West, not East. Poland was already a unified state in the 10th century. Russia was under Tartar suzerainty until 500 years later, when Ivan the Great made the Moscow principality a unifying force, and Mongol and Lithuanian power faded.

"People often think that history doesn't count. It does; it is a safe bet that Poland, Bohemia and Hungary (to speak only of them, in Eastern Europe) will be around long after Leninism is forgotten. An intelligent foreign policy, even an intelligent Russian foreign policy (leave aside Leninism), would recognize such a factor. To restore the autonomy of such states, in exchange for their voluntary guarantee of Russian security, would solve a problem that otherwise will afflict the Soviet Union for years to come and could even draw it into war."