

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



VOL. 4, NO. 16

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

APRIL 16, 1982

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

DATE OF SECOND PASSOVER

The date of the second Passover (the 14th day of the second month) is Friday, May 7th. The second Passover is to be observed the previous evening, Thursday night, May 6th, after sunset.

International News

German-speaking Areas The German office reports that they are very happy to welcome Paul and Monica Kieffer back to Germany at the end of this month. The Kieffers will be staying in an apartment in our Bonn Office building until they can move into Alfred Hellemann's apartment in Bavaria on the Austrian border. Herr Hellemann will be moving out this summer to begin serving the three Churches in the north of Germany--Hamburg, Hannover and Berlin. Mr. and Mrs. Kieffer will serve our Churches in Bavaria and Austria.

Increased PM activity was noted by two of our ministers. Of course, the typical increase in members' and PM problems which precedes Passover every year was also evident! Many of those being tried are rising to the occasion, however, and determining with God's help to "turn their lemons into lemonade!"

The month of March brought another record-breaking total mail count, mainly as a result of advertising. Compared to March 1981, over 200 percent more letters and cards poured into the office in March--nearly 1,000 pieces of mail per working day. In the first three months of 1982 we received much more than half the mail count for all of last year, with 70,718 pieces of mail received thus far this year as compared to 119,000 in 1981.

Our regular mail increased by 80% in March, and for the year to date it has increased 66%. Advertising has not only substantially increased our subscription list from 78,000 in January to 90,000 for the March issue, it has also increased the number of cards and letters received from our readers.

On March 19th HORZU, West Germany's largest TV/radio program magazine with a circulation of four million, published a black and white full-page ad for The PLAIN TRUTH in five languages. Glued-on postcards were used in 1.1 million issues appearing in the south of Germany. To date (April 7th) we've already received 12,570 requests.

New Zealand March brought in the second highest monthly income ever received by the office here, with an excellent 34.7% increase over the figure for March last year. This brings the year-to-date income increase to 27.7%. However, the old adage that "The Lord giveth...but the government taketh away" once again applies, with postage charges rising by 20-25% as of April first.

The mail count for March was very fine also, with just under 9,000 items received during the month--an increase of 66% over last March. White mail was up by 141%, regular mail up 64%, and donation mail up 26%. The year-to-date incoming mail total now stands at a 74% increase. Outgoing mail for the year to date is 45% higher than last year, so the level of activity in the office has been high all around so far this year.

We have now received 9,500 responses to Mr. Armstrong's last semi-annual letter, representing over 21% of our PLAIN TRUTH list. Of these people 5,200 requested a sample copy of YOUTH 82, and 700 of these have already seen their sample copy and requested a full subscription.

The series of eight WALL STREET JOURNAL ads in the NEW ZEALAND HERALD has now been run and has resulted in the addition of 600 new PLAIN TRUTH subscribers, besides getting an important message into the hands of multiple thousands of New Zealanders. From a response point of view, the ad headlined "A Staggering Turn in World Events" well outpulled all of the other ads, bringing in 220 responses alone.

The same series of ads will be published in the Wellington newspaper, THE DOMINION, through April and May. We're also running a series of full-page ads in New Zealand's highest circulation magazine, THE NEW ZEALAND LISTENER, one per month from March through August. The March ad has already brought in 200 replies.

Tonga Our brethren in Tonga miraculously escaped the full force of Cyclone Isaac, which devastated large areas of the tiny Island Kingdom early in March of this year. The cyclone veered largely around the islands where our members live, but went straight through island groups where no members live. The only major damage sustained by the brethren was the loss of the roof of one member family's home. Crops were lost as well. Contributions from members in New Zealand, plus generous support from Pasadena, are being used to help the brethren through the current food shortage.

The brethren are looking forward to the upcoming Passover and Holy Day season with extra anticipation, as Dr. and Mrs. Herman Hoeh are scheduled to be with them. Dr. Hoeh planned to be in Tonga for the Passover and the First Day of Unleavened Bread, which will be a great boost to the Tongan brethren at this time of hardship. Dr. Hoeh was then to come to Wellington to speak to a combined group of Churches on the weekly Sabbath, and to Auckland for another combined service on the Last Day of Unleavened Bread. Then he will take a Sabbath service in Suva, Fiji, on April 17th.

Appreciation for the Second Ministerial Refreshing Program

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

We have finished the second session of the second Ministerial Refreshing Program. My wife and I can certainly say that you

were led by God to conduct these programs of which we are very thankful to have been participants.

This second program was a very helpful, vital, and necessary addition to the first one. We would consider it an important second chapter in our training. While the first Ministerial Refreshing Program laid the basic foundation; this second one (aside from making necessary additions to it) began to build on that structure to give more form, detail, direction, understanding and emphasis on how we should do our part better in helping build the Body of Christ--the Church. This helps us fulfill the job for which we have been called and drafted into, and to help you fulfill the Church's Commission in this end time.

We appreciate your having taken the time to talk to us in the session. Even as many have commented, it was very profitable. And as always, those who taught and had part in this program showed zeal, dedication, and the attitude of love and service. We thank all of them through you for such a splendid, living example. Also, we are very happy to have been part of a totally new group (to us) of ministers and wives this time, and again we see the same oneness of spirit and purpose and unity among all.

This Church is indeed doing the right programs in preparing itself and doing the Work in this end time. This short letter cannot describe all the things we have learned, experienced, and are thankful for; but we just want to express these things to you--even if it is just the "tip of the iceberg" of our impressions, experiences, and thankfulness.

Edmond and Lorna Macaraeg

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Pat and I are grateful to God for the opportunity to serve in His Work. The third session of second refresher gave us two times to hear from you--once in a class and once in a service. Thank you for presenting this period of teaching and hospitality. It was enjoyable and profitable.

Your encouragement and correction was a very special treat. God help all of us to see and admit the wrong things that we do, as well as help us change to living by the principles He has revealed via the prophets and apostles.

Thanks again for giving us this time of refreshing. Soon the refreshing government of the Kingdom of God will be on earth for everyone.

W. Ronald and Pat Reedy

Mr. Joe Tkach:

Although it has been a few weeks since attending the refreshing program, I don't think it is too late to write and express our thanks for the tremendous lift it was to Debbie and me. As the ad says, "Thanks, we needed that!"

In many ways this second program surpassed the first. The classes hit home to us personally and gave us a boost. Especially fulfilling was the chance to meet so many men from the international areas. One of the most inspiring lectures was Rod Matthew's presentation on the international area of God's Work. Learning about our brethren in other countries helps us to realize that we truly are a Worldwide Church of God. Many thanks again and we look forward to seeing you on Refreshing III.

Darris and Debbie McNeely

What Neighbors and Visitors Say About God's College

The facilities of God's College and Work, the personnel and the students are bringing warm comments from many who live around A.C., as well as from out-of-town visitors to the campus. Here is a sampling of recent comments:

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

During a recent trip, one of the highlights was our visit to Ambassador College. The minute we stepped on the campus we felt that here was something different....Friendly smiling faces greeted us everywhere! The beauty and cleanliness of the grounds and buildings are just beyond description. We were particularly impressed with the attitude of the students and the staff. They all went out of their way to show us around, in spite of the fact we came on a really hectic day. What a tremendous thrill it was!

R. & D.B. (De Land, FL)

The students are some of the best students I've seen--in personal habits, cleanliness and friendliness....Ambassador College pulls up the neighborhood.

R.D. (Pasadena, CA)

One of the female students took us through Mayfair and Terrace Villa. We were impressed by these dormitories. It seemed like those girls were one big happy family...everywhere we went people helping and encouraging each other. This was fantastic!!

E.P. (Dayton, TN)

Dear Mr. LaRavia:

For all the years Ambassador College has been in Pasadena I have been your neighbor. You are a good neighbor. My compliments go to you for adding stability and leadership to your campus. I hope to see your school and to meet you, especially. Warm regards.

F.S. (Pasadena, CA)

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

MAIL PROCESSING CENTER UPDATE

Phone Response Sets New Weekend Record

We are happy to report that 10,283 people called in during the weekend of April 10-11 in response to the second part of Mr. Armstrong's tele-

cast about Easter. This was a 19% increase over last weekend and sets another new record for the number of calls received.

Comments About the Bible Correspondence Course

The Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course continues to inspire new students as well as those studying it again. Many students of the course express their excitement and enthusiasm about the lessons as shown by the following comments:

I am currently enrolled in your Bible Correspondence Course and find it very interesting and exciting. I am so grateful for the knowledge and enlightenment of the entire Bible. Never before was Biblical knowledge so interesting and easy to understand.

Thank you for focusing on areas which affect all mankind--our true relationship with God through Jesus Christ as well as the blessings for obedience and the punishments for disobedience. May God continue to bless your work. I am now ready for the next lesson and must say that each new lesson is a real eye-opener and thriller.

L.R. (Atlanta, GA)

It has been a long time since I have written you. My last letter included a request for your Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course. Since that time I have learned so much I never knew was in the Bible.

I thought that I was a Christian until I studied your course and found out that what I had been taught was false and contrary to the Bible. Thank you for your course. It has opened my eyes to the Truth of God.

L.K. (Culpeper, VA)

About ten minutes ago I read the final paragraph of Lesson 13 of your inspiring Bible course. For ten minutes I sat dumbfounded as God's stunning master plan crossed back and forth through my mind. Every piece of scripture I could think of came into its perfect place. I don't know what to say or how--if only my feelings could speak.

D.E. (New Orleans, LA)

Thank you very much for the wonderful Bible lessons. They are the best lessons I have ever studied with, and the only ones I study with now. It is so wonderful to know the Truth! Truly, as Jesus said, it does set you free....Since God has opened my mind through The PLAIN TRUTH, your Bible course, and the World Tomorrow broadcast, the Bible has become a whole new world of understanding. My sister and I have been led to God's true Church and now attend services.

C.H. (Butte, MT)

I just wanted to thank you for the knowledge you have taught me through the Bible Correspondence Course. There is no other course like it because it is all truth straight from the Bible. I

searched for the true Church for seven years. I know my search is over. I am thankful to God for you and pray for you each day.

Mrs. J.W. (Rome, GA)

Before coming into God's Church, I requested and received the Correspondence Course. It served the purpose of awakening me to what I did not know about the Bible. It was a light to point the way to God's true Church and Work. I am now in God's Church, through His calling, and I need the Bible Correspondence Course more than on my initial request. I need it for mature Christian study. Please send it to me as soon as possible.

Mrs. V.M. (New York, NY)

Mr. Dexter Faulkner mentioned in a recent WORLDWIDE NEWS article that you (Mr. Armstrong) had encouraged the brethren in some of the Church areas you visited, to begin the Bible Correspondence Course all over. Well, that's just what we're doing in our home....We have already completed Lesson One. It's so enjoyable to study together with my husband. I didn't realize that the exciting joy that was there when I first began to study would reoccur as we began to go through the course again--but it has and I love it.

Mrs. C.E. (Ellisville, MS)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

SOUTH ATLANTIC SHOWDOWN NEARS As we go to press the British fleet--ominously called an "armada" even by the British press--is nearing the Argentine-besieged Falkland Islands. We will not have long to learn whether Prime Minister Thatcher will be proven correct in her assertion to Parliament on April 14: "We shall persevere until freedom and democracy are restored to the Falkland Islands."

More complete detailing of the Falkland Islands crisis is due in an upcoming PLAIN TRUTH article. In the meantime, here are some media observations and reactions. First of all, Geoffrey Godsell of the CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, in its April 7 issue, put the dispute in its true historical context, rather than just a rehash of conflicting claims and counter-claims to the islands themselves:

On both sides, deep, usually hidden, elemental feelings are engaged that go back 400 years--even though Argentina was born only 150 years ago....The Falklands dispute has revived the centuries-old clash between English-speaking and Spanish-speaking cultures. That was decided geopolitically in favor of the former by England's defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588.

But the residue of animosity from that original collision has not been completely purged....Most Britons are at least dimly aware that their ancestors' defeat of the Spanish Armada kept the door open for the liberating consequences of the Protestant Reformation, for the glories of the reign of Elizabeth I, for Shakespeare and the King James translation of the Bible. It opened the door for the colonization of English-speaking North America and its subsequent history.

The other side of the coin is the sense of humiliation so often felt by the Spanish-speaking culture, outmatched (at least by force of arms) first in 1588 and ever since in material and social development in the New World.

In other words, the outcome of that first armada's defeat led to the eventual conferring of the birthright. This was in accordance with God's plan--even though Pope Alexander VI, in 1493, had given Spain the New World (with a smaller portion reserved for the Portuguese the following year).

The publication, LATIN AMERICA REGIONAL REPORTS (April 9, 1982), showed that the dispute, as always, really boils down to a struggle for power. When Britain was strong, Argentina never dared to attack:

The legal argument has of course never existed in a vacuum, but has been inextricably linked to diplomatic and political relations between the two countries, and the balance of power. On this approach it is clear that from 1833 to (at least) the outbreak of World War II, Britain was overwhelmingly more powerful than Argentina. This explains why no Argentine government could, in realistic terms, do anything more than keep the claim alive. In this long period Argentina routinely appended its reservations to whatever international treaty or convention was around at the time and seemed relevant.

The change in the fundamental relationships between the two countries was a post-war phenomenon. It cannot be pinned to a particular date, but to a series of events and trends. These include the decline and gradual disappearance of the British Empire; [and] the loosening of the ties of British economic dominance on the Argentine mainland (expressed through the control of beef, agricultural exports, railways, ports and banking)....

Another CSM reporter, Joseph C. Harsch, on April 15, discussed the dangerous precedent to the world caused by the Argentine invasion and why the U.S. should support the British position rather than trying to appear "evenhanded":

The Argentine seizure of the Falkland Islands by armed force was a simple case of a land grab by military aggression which, if allowed to stand, would have disastrously unsettling implications all over the world....International law and an enormous mass of supplementary treaties and documents, including the charter of the United Nations, condemn military aggression and the subjugation of a population by force of arms.

The British are under no obligation even to negotiate over the future sovereignty of the islands. They could give them up voluntarily and would like to do so since the protection of them costs more than any return. But for the British to surrender their rights and their obligations to the 1,800 British subjects on the islands would establish an enormously dangerous precedent. Anyone who covets his neighbor's land could take inspiration from the Argentine act of larceny.

If the U.S. favors stability in the world it had best support Britain's duty to rescue its own people from an act of international piracy. Besides, it would help hold the NATO alliance together.

The Argentines signaled earlier this year, via "leaks" to their own newspapers, that in view of stalemated negotiations with Britain over the islands they might resort to force to recover the Malvinas, as they call them. In that sense it is rather remarkable that the British were caught napping, and did not have enough military presence in the islands to forestall such an eventuality. Five years ago, the then British government of Prime Minister James Callaghan feared a move by Argentina to take the islands. Mr. Callaghan and his Foreign Secretary, David Owen, then ordered three British frigates from the Mediterranean to the South Atlantic. The immediate threat passed.

The Argentines also moved at this time knowing that the United States has been counting on them to provide more anti-Communist support in the Americas. The British are quite upset over Washington's middle-of-the-road efforts to resolve the conflict. After all, one side (Britain) is a brother, a close ally of the United States in both world wars, and a supporter (sometimes a solitary one) of U.S. policies in recent days over Afghanistan and Poland. Argentina, on the other hand, amounts to little more than a recently hired "lover," a country of pro-Nazi sentiment in World War II, ruled by a totalitarian military junta hardly aspiring to the same values as the U.S. and Britain. The April 10 issue of Britain's THE ECONOMIST editorialized:

Argentina took over the Falkland Islands by force, 500 miles from its coast. Britain now has to challenge that takeover....This is the way the dispute now has to go. To shrink will be to shrink: to show that today democracies really are less able to defend their interests--even the tiny ones, never mind the bigger ones that matter more--than are authoritarian regimes. And thereby to encourage bigger losses in the future than the Falklands today. This is the issue.

As it did for Israel when Egypt caught it by surprise in 1973, America will have to offset Argentina's surprise attack by a tilt towards Britain that brings both combatants back into diplomacy. For America to lie low will only diminish, irrevocably, its leverage with both. By lying low it would cede to Argentina, and to other South Americans, the notion that their great northern neighbour is powerless to hinder even their wildest actions. Equally, for American inaction to cause Britain to lose the whole dispute to Argentina would cede to those in Britain and elsewhere in Europe the notion that the leader of their North Atlantic alliance is a fair-weather ally. Alliance a la carte is no alliance: that is the argument that America itself has been trying to deploy against European waywardness in the Middle East, over Poland, over Afghanistan, over nuclear deployment and over spending on defense....

The dispute is going to test Britain too....A belief has crept into all of Europe's democracies, save France, that you never fight--not, at least, with guns and bombs and unpleasant things

like that; those are for blimps, blusterers and television. Certainly you do not fight about marginal issues. "Negotiate," that is the real answer: "give peace a chance."

At the moment, both the British public and the politicians appear solidly behind Mrs. Thatcher's resolve to meet force with force. Even the Labour Party is lined up behind her on this issue. The left-wing opposition, as expected, is dead set against the actions of the Argentine military junta. One Labour spokesman called President Galtieri a "bargain basement Mussolini." (Galtieri, like many Argentines, is of Italian descent.)

While the British display their traditional "stiff upper lip" on the crisis, the Administration in Washington appears in need of a spine transplant. It wants to avoid a confrontation at all costs--or maybe permit the British just a little glory to mollify their aroused anger.

American syndicated columnist Jack Anderson claims that President Reagan told Secretary of State Alexander Haig to make him the villain if it would help resolve the Falkland Islands dispute. According to taped conversations between the President and Mr. Haig, which Anderson claims to have obtained, Mr. Reagan is quoted as saying: "In those talks, if it's helpful at all don't hold back on making me the bad guy and insisting on restraint if that's necessary." Anderson said Mr. Reagan speculated whether the British might be appeased if they sank an Argentine warship by saying, "Would that be enough to vindicate them?"

Another Sea Gate Gone

The British fleet is at a great disadvantage in terms of distance and air cover. The Argentines, meanwhile, have dug in. Even if the British should recover their possession by force of arms, the Falklands are probably lost. Britain would have to maintain a large expensive occupying force, far out of relationship to the few inhabitants and the strained British military budget now being trimmed to allow money for Trident submarines. Then too, how long can NATO permit two-thirds of the British navy to remain far removed from its primary assigned area, the North Atlantic?

The British Foreign Office in the event of a stalemate or an unlikely victory would still probably engineer a diplomatic handover to Argentina. This, in fact, would have taken place years ago, if the 1,800 Falklanders had not objected to living under Argentina's oppressive dictatorship and inflation-wracked economy.

Significantly, the new military governor of the "Malvinas" is General Mario Benjamin Menendez, who bears the dubious nickname of the "Butcher of Cordoba." Menendez ruthlessly crushed a revolt which had been stirred up by opponents of the government's ruling junta in that Argentine city in 1979. Thus a small segment of Ephraim is now living under what amounts to house arrest conditions, ruled over by a tough taskmaster (who doesn't speak any English at all). Could this be a forerunner of much grimmer days to come for the home isles--similar to the prototype of America's coming captivity in the form of the hostages held for over a year in Iran?

So for all practical purposes yet another British sea gate, one vital in both World Wars I and II, is gone. One of our members in the British Isles, a journalist by profession, sent us his personal observation of the crisis:

For hundreds of years, Britain's sailors enjoyed success after success in war--often against overwhelming odds. But the days of God's blessing have passed on the Empire on which the Sun once never set. Any attempt now by Britain to regain the pride of her power will probably result in what's left of that power lying at the bottom of the South Atlantic. As one observer pointed out to me, the 8,000-mile voyage to take on the Argentinians on their own ground "is like a man hiking 30 miles to knock on his enemy's door and challenge him to a fight on the spot without even pausing for breath. And if he gets beaten, he has another 30-mile hike back home ahead of him."

Nor are the Falkland Islands a matter of pride alone. They are one of the most important sea gates in the world, commanding the approaches of the River Plate [Rio de la Plata]--the economic heart of South America. World War I began with the Royal Navy sinking the German cruiser fleet of Admiral Graf von Spee in the Battle of the Falkland Islands [December, 1914]. 25 years later, in 1939, the British sank the German pocket battleship named after Graf Spee in the Battle of the River Plate, and the British cruiser Exeter limped back to the friendly Falklands with its heavy battle damage.

Because Britain held the Falkland Islands, and command of the sea, in 1914 and 1939, the whole of Spanish South America was cowed into neutrality, despite widespread pro-German sympathies, in both World Wars. How true was the prophecy to Abraham--"Thy seed shall possess the gates of his enemies (Gen. 22:17)." They don't possess them anymore.

Yes, indeed, much is at stake in the looming second "Battle of the Falkland Islands."

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau