

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Openings at S.E.P. Orr and Big Sandy (PLEASE ANNOUNCE)

We have completely filled up the second and third sessions at the camp in Orr, but still have some openings for boys only in the first session at Orr and the camp at Big Sandy. We would like the parents of all boys interested in attending either of these sessions to contact the Y.O.U. Office by phone as there is not enough time to go through the mailing process. Applicants must be 14 years or older for Orr, Session I. For the Big Sandy camp we would prefer students who have attended Orr at least once but will accept those who have not if they are 15 years or older, pending their minister's recommendation.

Please read the above in your local congregations. If we can be of any further service please call us.

Fleet Gasoline Expense

With summer approaching we need to remind all fleet drivers of the policy regarding gasoline expenses. As you are aware, an amount is regularly deducted from your paycheck to cover your personal driving costs. This covers everything except gasoline expenses for approved time off and for the Feast. Vacation travel is a personal expense to you and festival travel should come out of your Feast allotment.

In either case, you have two options for payment. You can choose to cover the expenses with cash or your personal credit card from the start, or you can put the expenses on the Gelco card and send a personal check in to Fleet Administration to cover the costs.

Questions and Answers

QUESTION: Is it permissible for a Christian to be employed in law enforcement or security work if such a position requires him to carry a gun (even if he doesn't intend to load or use it)?

ANSWER: The Church of God cannot approve of any of its members carrying guns in security or enforcement work. To do so would be a contradiction of the doctrine and policy Jesus Christ has established in His Church.

God expects His begotten children to be lights to the world (Matt. 5:14-16). Our conduct, therefore, must reflect the way of life God teaches us, and one of God's commandments is "Thou shalt not kill" (Ex. 20:13). If one is absolutely not going to kill, he should not give the appearance that he will kill under certain conditions (I Thes. 5:22). Carrying a firearm advertises one's willingness and intent to kill "if necessary in the line of duty."

The Worldwide Church of God and its members are on record as being conscientiously opposed to serving in the military forces. Our young men accept civil punishment rather than serve in the military. Some have gone to jail because they conscientiously object to having any part in war or killing their fellowman.

It is inconsistent to conscientiously refuse military service, but then accept civilian employment which requires carrying weapons and therefore is a tacit promise to use them in the line of duty. Were the Church to tolerate this, the sincerity of our young men in refusing active military service would be compromised.

Remember that God would have fought Israel's battles for them, making their own bloody defenses unnecessary. Israel chose instead to do things man's way and paid the price in blood. We must learn from their example (I Cor. 10:11) and not make the mistake of taking up weapons and fighting our own battles (John 18:36).

This world cannot accept God's way. They choose to fight and war and carry weapons. And they pay the price. But, God's people must obey and serve Him faithfully (Acts 5:29). We must live our lives His way as a light and example to others, and to prepare us for His Kingdom. If God's Church permits brethren to compromise with God's law for the sake of a paycheck, God will surely withdraw His favor and blessing.

International News

The Philippines Four new Churches were inaugurated in March: Los Banos and Imus in Southern Luzon, Tuguegarao in Northern Luzon and Pagadian City in Southwestern Mindanao. Regional Director Guy Ames opened the Churches in Los Banos and Imus on March 13. These two local Churches will comprise a pastoral circuit which is presently assigned to Mr. Jose Raduban. Mr. Ames also opened the local Church in Tuguegarao on March 20. Pastoring this Church is Mr. Pedro Ortiguero. On behalf of Mr. Ames, his assistant in Ministerial Services, Mr. Pedro Melendez opened the local Church in Pagadian City. Mr. Tex Benitez is pastor of this new Church.

Mr. Reynaldo Taniajura, pastor of the Naga, Legaspi and Daet Churches, reported a good turnout at a two-day Bible lecture which he gave in Legaspi City in March. On the first day 35 new people, who were invited from among the Bible Correspondence Course students and PLAIN TRUTH subscribers in the area, came to the lecture. On the second day 38 new people showed up. Mr. Taniajura spoke on Bible prophecy and how it relates to us today. He commented in his report that the audience's level of interest and Bible understanding was higher compared with previous audiences. "After the lectures several counseled with me either asking about baptism or how they could attend our Church services here," wrote Mr. Taniajura.

Mr. Armstrong's radio and television programs continue to draw a good response. The latest report shows that since the program began in early January this year, a total of 1,032 responses have been received. Mr. Armstrong's semi-annual letter which offered the booklet NEVER BEFORE UNDERSTOOD--WHY HUMANITY CANNOT SOLVE ITS EVILS, has now pulled 15,345 responses, or a 50% return.

The Netherlands The month of March has shown a continued growth in God's Work in the Netherlands even though the national economy is still on the decline. Responses to the advertising campaign in DE KAMPIOEN are still coming in. The total subscription list of the Dutch ECHTE WAARHEID now stands at 45,000.

Our income for this month shows a year-to-date increase of 17%. Mail increased this month 81.6% with a total of 6,602 pieces received. About 20% of this mail was requests for booklets and literature offered in De ECHTE WAARHEID. Correspondence Course students increased from 1,221 last year to 2,005 this month, a 64.2% increase. Church attendance increased 6.6% compared to last year.

Appreciation for the Second Ministerial Refreshing Program

Dear Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Tkach:

I've just returned home from the third session of the second Ministerial Refreshing Program--and WOW! WHAT CAN I SAY? I didn't think the first MRP could be topped, but it was!

To me personally it was the most sobering and meaningful two weeks of my life to date, for the classes emphasized the reality of our responsibilities in the ministry like nothing else has ever done.

Thank you very much for the correction, instruction, inspiration and vision. And thanks to all who worked so hard to make it so profitable.

Terry P. Mattson

Mr. Joseph Tkach:

Please extend my thanks to Mr. Armstrong for a very enjoyable and profitable refresher course. Your staff is to be complimented for their work and preparation. Everything went well. The lectures and presentations were excellent. I have had the opportunity to use some of the information already. The brethren were pleased to hear that Mr. Armstrong is participating in the course.

Keith F. Thomas

Spectacular Healing

On March 15, 1982 God performed a dramatic miracle by healing 15-year-old Terry Mayes, son of church member Irma Mayes. While eating breakfast, Terry sustained a massive heart attack and was dead nearly 10 minutes by the time the fire rescue squad arrived. They worked frantically to revive Terry and then quickly sent him by ambulance to the hospital.

I was called and went on to the hospital, anointing Terry in the intensive care unit while the nurses worked frantically over the life support machine that was hooked to him. The doctor held out no hope and advised that Terry be taken off the life support machine in about eight hours. When that time came, his heart was

beating but he was not breathing on his own. Terry's mother gave consent to disconnect him from the life support machine. The machine was disconnected and he finally started breathing on his own.

The doctor then remarked that if he lived he would be a living vegetable. A day later Terry opened his eyes and started talking. Word spread from the nursing and doctor's staffs to another hospital where he was referred to as "the boy that died and came back to life." Terry's family and the brethren here are very happy and give thanks to God that He still heals.

Eugene G. Koch (Beaumont, TX)

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

MIDDLESBORO, KY--MEL DAHLGREN: It is exciting to see God working in members' lives in such detail and with much mercy. Deeper conversion is resulting. Everyone appreciated Mr. Armstrong's latest tape on "Why the Church?" One member commented that it made her question the depth of her own conversion as no other message ever has.

TEXARKANA, TX/SHREVEPORT, LA--BILL BRADFORD: Attendance is higher at all Bible studies. Trend is toward greater application of spiritual principles for those who attend the Bible studies and hear the tapes. As a result of Mr. Armstrong's many comments on conversion and repentance I have given several sermons on the subject. There is no small stir about this matter. I have had numerous counseling sessions with people who are examining themselves as to whether they are in the faith. They are seeing themselves in a way they have not seen themselves before, and reaching a depth of repentance they have not experienced.

SARASOTA, FL--DANIEL J. BIERER: The good questions people are asking is positive proof that more reading and studying is being done. People are very responsive to headquarters.

MONROE, LA--BRISCOE ELLETT II: Had approximately 22 people sit in on the baptismal counseling. Many are making good progress towards baptism. Most brethren can see from world events and the power and strength of Mr. Armstrong that this age is just about up.

JACKSONVILLE, NC--JOHN MOSKEL: Newly baptized members are making very significant growth. I am surprised and pleased! Brethren appear to be coming to services earlier as the months pass. A good number are there one-half hour before services begin.

KANSAS CITY (EAST), KS--RUSSELL DUKE: We've had significant growth in the area due to television and The PLAIN TRUTH distribution--many visit requests. Also, we've had about a dozen baptisms in the last month and a half, many of them second generation Christians.

OMAHA, NE--A. W. DOCKEN: Morale remains high in spite of increasing unemployment among members. The Safeway Stores closed

down this month. Although none of our members were employees, it shows the seriousness of the situation here. Everyone is enthusiastic about the expansion of the Work and the growth that expansion is bringing about--proves God backs up our efforts.

WICHITA, KS--JUDD KIRK: Economy is beginning to take a toll on our local people. Several have lost jobs or have been told their job security is not high.

PITTSBURGH/BEAVER VALLEY, PA--DON J. LAWSON: We now have many people out of work and some have moved to the Sunbelt. Unemployment is very high and businesses are closing down. Others are out on strike. Many people on the same job for 15 to 30 years are finding themselves without work. Unless things change soon, Pittsburgh could easily become a depressed area. So far those in the Church who are unemployed have been able to draw unemployment, so everyone is still making it.

Everything seems to be going well in the Beaver Valley congregation. The area itself is beginning to be an economically depressed place to live. Unemployment is quite high and this is beginning to affect some in the Church. Several have moved to the Sunbelt and others are planning to.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

PUBLISHING SERVICES UPDATE

PLAIN TRUTH to Receive Unique Exposure

Recently, we were notified by the Zellerbach Paper Company that samples of their paper called "Mendocino 45# Gloss" were to be distributed to various printers and publishers. What is interesting about this is that the samples to be used are signatures of the Introductory PLAIN TRUTH! Four salesmen are each being given 1,000 samples of the cover signature (16 pages) of the Introductory PLAIN TRUTH to distribute to printers and publishers in 13 western states.

The Zellerbach Paper Company is the largest paper distributor in the U.S. with 56 outlets in 24 states. Its sales in 1982 will approach \$1 billion. The prime purpose in Zellerbach sending out these samples is to show the quality of the printing on this paper. But who knows what other results ultimately might be?

The Introductory PT cover signature includes a cover photograph of Mr. Armstrong, his Personal "Why I Talk With Heads of State About World Evils and World Peace," the article by Mr. Armstrong "Jews Are a Nation Again... Prophecy Fulfilled?", and segments from other articles about the world tomorrow, the Kingdom of God, etc. This special edition of The PLAIN TRUTH is sent to all new subscribers as an introduction to the Work and to the Church. Since most ministers have never seen a copy of the Introductory P.T., we are including a sample copy with this issue of the PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT.

PT Newsstands/Circulation

The TV tip-on program for newsstand editions of the magazine is growing rapidly and yielding excellent results. Wherever two mediums can advertise

each other (e.g. when newsstand PTs advertise Mr. Armstrong's local television and/or radio broadcast), the greater the recognition and responsiveness to the program.

PLAIN TRUTH circulation is continuing to climb, setting new records every week, with U.S. circulation now at 1,754,000. During the week of April 25 over 60,000 new subscribers were added to The PLAIN TRUTH list--setting a new record!

--Ray Wright, Publishing Services

FROM MAIL PROCESSING

Impact of Work's Lit on International Readers

This week's comments are from letters received by the various international offices of the Work. They show the impact the Work's literature is making on the personal lives of subscribers around the world.

Finding an old edition of your magazine in an old pile of newspapers was like finding the light at the end of a tunnel. I can't believe how informative and accurate your magazine is. It makes Bible reading and understanding so much easier, and so real! The words jump off the pages like whispers from God, moments before the final hour of the world. I definitely believe that if you charged a subscription price for this magazine, based solely on the relevance and magnitude of the information presented, it would be worth hundreds of dollars each issue! The fact that you give your magazine to anyone without a subscription price is amazing. I would like to become a subscriber immediately and look forward to receiving my first issue.

J.F. (Inglewood, Canada)

At the back of your booklet, WHAT IS THE TRUE GOSPEL?, is an advertisement saying, "If you'd like to know more..."--well, I would. Myself, and a neighbour about a mile and a half down the road from me, are both interested in learning the truth.

I realize that I'm asking a lot from someone who doesn't even know me, since I live approximately 42 miles from Quesnel--although there is a good road to my place. At present I cannot even pay the expenses of whoever would be willing to come out to talk with me....My neighbour would also like to see someone and talk with them about the truth.

If there is someone who would take pity on a couple of old "bush rats" and be willing to come and talk to us, we would surely listen.

S.M. (Quesnel, Canada)

Your magazine is a real storehouse from which I draw strength. It activates a spiritual flame within me and reinforces my faith each day. It is a profound source, full of profitable instruction!

H.E. (Togo)

Your magazine helped me realize the greatness of God's love. The booklet, SEVEN LAWS OF SUCCESS, redirected my life by helping me evaluate my goals. Now I can talk to God freely in prayer and I feel that He is listening. I wish to understand Him better so I decided to enroll in the Bible Correspondence Course.

F.G. (Camaligan, The Philippines)

KLAR & WAHR doesn't only give me better understanding of complicated and incomprehensible world politics, but also contains interesting and valuable articles which bring my general knowledge up to a much higher standard for a young person still studying. Through your excellent way of writing, my somewhat poor relationship with God has improved and will continue to do so!

A.B. (Sistrans, Austria)

I have now received your magazine for over two years and have definitely benefited from your informative articles. Even though your magazine is clearly Christian oriented and I am a Muslim, I have found most of your articles very topical, thought-provoking and definitely food for thought. Your articles keep one up to date with what is happening in and around our homes--things which many of us take for granted or are not even aware of. Keep up the good work. I look forward to receiving your future issues.

A.M. (Athlone, Republic of South Africa)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

WILL A HUMILIATED ARGENTINA GO NUCLEAR? With Britain's declaration of a complete air and sea blockade around the besieged Falkland Islands, a military confrontation between the British task force and Argentina appears inevitable.

British odds, initially thought quite poor, have improved, especially in view of the relatively easy victory in South Georgia. Argentine forces there fought, if that is the correct word, unenthusiastically. Will defenders of the Malvinas fight any better? Will they be willing to die for islands that are proclaimed in Argentine propaganda to be the "most beloved" soil of the homeland? Reports smuggled out of the Falklands say that the Argentine forces, many of whom are young, green conscripts, are hungry, ill-provisioned and lack sufficient protection against the wintry conditions in the Falklands. Morale can't be too high, seeing that the Argentines were not welcomed by the local population as "liberators," as many no doubt thought they would be.

We'll soon find out how battle-ready is this "Italian army of the West." But suppose for the moment that Argentina is humiliated on its "most beloved" soil. This could be dangerous for the world, in that a frustrated, ambitious military state might decide, earlier than anticipated, to "go nuclear." Notice this article from the TIMES of London, April 17, 1982 entitled, "Junta Near A-Bomb Breakthrough":

Allegations that the Argentine junta is about to provide the country with a nuclear weapons option will be made in a BBC2 television programme on Monday. It says the Argentines should

start producing enough plutonium in 1983 to make 10 bombs a year. It also discloses the help they have had officially and unofficially from West Germany and traces the involvement of former Nazi sympathizers. The NEWSNIGHT SPECIAL investigation suggests that some German scientists might have been trying to give themselves the option of a "backdoor bomb" through Argentina....

At the centre of the controversy is a nuclear reprocessing plant being built at Ezeiza, next to the Buenos Aires International Airport and which should be completed next year.

The technology which has enabled the Argentines to construct the plant is said to have been provided by West German scientists under a deal concluded without reference to West Germany's allies or to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

A reactor is also being built at Atucha, north of Buenos Aires, by the West Germans, who won the contract against Canadian competition because they did not insist on the full range of safeguards necessary to ensure that a country is producing nuclear energy for only peaceful purposes.

Officially, the Argentines say they want to produce plutonium for use in fast breeder reactors in their country and elsewhere. Argentina has no fast breeder reactor programme and there are fears that Third World customers might include regimes like that of Colonel Gaddafi in Libya.

Argentina has so far refused to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Another source claims that Argentina could have the bomb by the end of this year. Here is what the March, 1982 issue of THE LATIN AMERICAN TIMES reports:

Latin America's ability to produce nuclear energy will be greatly enhanced as a result of Mexico's recent decision to build nuclear plants capable of generating 2 million kilowatts of power. The plan is the first phase of a 20 million-kilowatt program to be implemented over the next twenty years at a cost (in current terms) of more than \$30 billion.

Mexico's announcement coincided with recent reports, made by U.S. intelligence sources, of Argentina's plan to produce Latin America's first atomic bomb by the end of 1982. Argentine officials have not decisively confirmed the news. Admiral Carlos Castro Madero, the head of Argentina's National Atomic Energy Commission (CNEA), has conceded that his nation "has the know-how to build a bomb" but has denied it is actually going to do so. Whether or not the intelligence reports are accurate, Argentina remains Latin America's leading nuclear power.

The reports concerning Argentina disturbed Washington officials intent on discouraging the military use of internationally-traded

nuclear materials....Regardless of Washington's present attitudes, Latin American governments are not likely to be cowed into accepting policies inimical to their interests. The position of Argentina, for example, was clearly expressed in a recent statement made by Admiral Carlos Castro Madero and quoted by the British journal NEW SCIENTIST: "Argentina pursues an open nuclear policy of integration between Latin American countries with the object of creating a local nuclear technology in the region and reducing dependence on developed countries." Argentina's open policy has led to technical cooperation agreements with other Latin nations such as Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, and Venezuela as well as with Libya and India.

How timely was Mr. Armstrong's latest co-worker letter warning of the proliferation of nuclear weapons around the world.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau