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AUG. 17, 1987

## Mr. Tkach in Europe, England: building bridges across borders

By Jeff E. Zhorne

PASADENA—"Having Mr. Tkach with us was like a dream come true. I never thought he would come to a tiny island like Malta," said Jennifer Frendo, a Maltese member.

With the completion of his trip to Europe and Britain Aug. 2, Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach has traveled to two thirds of the areas where brethren live.

In 2½ weeks Mr. Tkach, his party and the television crew visited members, Church offices or sites in Paris, France; Geneva, Switzerland; Rome, Italy; Valletta, Malta; Munich, Nuremberg, Duesseldorf, Stuttgart and Bonn, West Germany; East and West Berlin; Nieuwegein, Netherlands; and London and Borehamwood, England.

"It was a wonderful pleasure to share the joy of God's calling with those He has added to the Body of Christ in these areas," Mr. Tkach wrote in the Aug. 4 Pastor General's Report.

"Mr. Tkach's joyful attitude is contagious," said evangelist Dibar Apartian, regional director for French-speaking areas. "People always say he's so approachable. You want to put your arms around him."

According to Frank Schnee, regional director for German-speaking areas, "Mr. Tkach goes all out to serve the brethren on these trips and takes upon himself a grueling schedule."

### France

The Church's Gulfstream III jet left the Burbank, Calif., airport at 10 a.m., July 15, touching down at Le Bourget Airport in Paris 11 hours later. Mr. Apartian, his wife, Shirley, and Samuel Kneller, Paris pastor, and his wife, Marilyn, greeted the group.

Stepping off the plane were Mr. Tkach; Joseph Locke, vice president of Ambassador Foundation's international projects; Michael Feazell, personal assistant, and his wife, Victoria; Ellen Escat, administrative assistant; Michael Rasmussen, executive office aide; Lois Weber, executive secretary; and the G-III crew: Captain Ken Hopke, co-captain Lawrence Dietrich and steward Jay Brothers.

The Church's film crew met the traveling party in Paris. They are John Halford, on-location director, Gary Werings, cameraman, and Steve Bergstrom, remote operations engineer. They continued with the party on the G-III.

After resting, the party toured Notre Dame, a Gothic cathedral; the Louvre, national museum and

art gallery of France; Les Invalides, hospital buildings for disabled French soldiers built by Louis XIV, site of a church where Napoleon was buried; and other Parisian sights. Mrs. Kneller was tour guide.

That evening the group had dinner at the Jules Verne restaurant on the second floor of the 984-foot Eiffel Tower.

Friday, July 17, the group visited the Palace of Versailles, a 17th century palace built by King Louis XIV. Here the signing of the Treaty of Versailles marked the end of World War I in 1919.

"It was raining, so we didn't get a chance to walk around the beautiful gardens, but we did go through the palace, which was very elaborate and interesting to see," Mr. Tkach remarked.

At the Paris Office they met staff members, toured the building and ate a meal.

On the Sabbath, July 18, before Mr. Tkach's address in the Meridien Montparnasse Hotel, special Sabbath music was performed by the Strasbourg children's chorale, directed by Francis Bernard, and the Paris chorale, directed by Gerard Stevenin.

Olivier Carion, pastor of the Mulhouse, Strasbourg and St. Avold, France, churches, translated Mr. Tkach's sermon into French for the 760 present.

Participating churches included Angers, Caen, Lille, Mulhouse, Paris, Rouen, St. Avold and Strasbourg, France, and Brussels and Liege, Belgium. A few traveled 375 miles from Bordeaux to hear the pastor general.

The pastor general spoke about becoming an integral part of the spiritual temple, according to Mr. Apartian. "He stressed the point of unity and what it means to be a family working together as a team in this end time."

Afterward a handmade amphora (vase) from kiln blue Limoges porcelain and a framed wood-burning of egrets, also handmade, were given to Mr. Tkach.

The pastor general then presented Mr. Apartian with a plaque commemorating his 25th anniversary of service to God's Church as a minister and gave gold watches to Mr. and Mrs. Apartian.



**OFFICE GIFT**—Bram de Bree, Dutch regional director, presents Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach a silver replica of a Dutch East India Co. ship *The Half Moon*, July 29, which sailed in 1609 from the Netherlands to Manhattan Island. [Photo by Theo de Groot]

"It was a special occasion for the French-speaking brethren to see Mr. Apartian honored this way," Mr. Tkach wrote Aug. 4. "Their love for the Apartians and the work they have done is obvious."

After services Mr. Kneller stood next to Mr. Tkach, translating greetings from the brethren, who traditionally line up to meet the pastor general.

"One of the thrilling experiences [of traveling is] being able to meet and shake hands with all of God's people and members of the family of God," Mr. Tkach said.

"It makes you realize the plan of God and that we're not here just to listen; there is work to do," said Christiane Hernandez, a member.

"We were delighted to meet him," Rosine Gantois commented. "He seems so close to us; you really feel at ease with him."

"We see that he really lives what he says," said Annette Bernal.

That evening the pastor general was host to a buffet dinner for about 45 people, including his party, ministers, deacons and their wives.

The next day, July 19, the group, accompanied by the Apartians, boarded the G-III for Geneva.

### Switzerland

Landing at Cointrin Airport 45

## PERSONAL FROM

*Joseph W. Tkach*

Dear brethren:

Say it in any language—*somos una familia, nous sommes une famille, siamo una famiglia, wir sind eine Familie, wij zijn een familie, ye ye adusua, sisi ni jamii, isu tiri mhuri*—it means the same: *We are one family!*

How vividly I was reminded of the truth of that statement on my recent trip to visit the brethren and offices in Europe. As I have often said, wherever you may go in this world the one consistent thing you will find is the nature and character of the people of God.

The unifying "tie that binds"—God's Holy Spirit—is what enables Jesus Christ to live His life in each of us and makes us part of that one family, the family of God.

Though we still await our final birth as children of God at the resurrection, we are already begotten children, imbued through the Spirit with a small portion of God's own divine nature and character. It is now incumbent upon us to *grow* more like our elder brother, Jesus Christ, day by day.

God our Father has Himself, *personally*, made the decision to call each of us. That act of calling His future children is



**MALTESE WELCOME**—Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach embraces Michael and Gloria Zerafa, twin children of Maltese members Alfred and Elizabeth Zerafa, after clearing customs in Valletta, Malta, July 22. [Photo by Michael Rasmussen]

minutes later, Mr. Tkach was greeted by Bernard Andrist, pastor of the Geneva and Neuchatel, Switzerland, churches and office manager, and his wife, Maria-Jose.

Before Mr. Tkach's afternoon address to 300 French and Swiss brethren, the Geneva choir performed special music. Mr. Tkach's sermon in the Palais des Expositions et des Congres was followed by greeting members from Geneva and Lausanne, Switzerland, and Lyon, Marseille and Narbonne, France.

"The brethren greeted him not

only with open arms, but with open chocolate boxes too," said Mr. Apartian. "Switzerland spells chocolate and cheese."

"They gave him a gift—a 7½ kilo (16 pounds) bar of chocolate," he added. "On top of that, they gave him small chocolates and cheeses after services, besides a beautiful wall clock."

On behalf of brethren in Zaire, a French-speaking nation in central Africa, Mr. Tkach was given a portrait of himself etched in copper.

At the Geneva Office the pastor general attended a reception and toured the building.

"Mr. Andrist made sure we were offered nearly every kind of Swiss chocolate imaginable," Mr. Feazell said. "Mr. Tkach is a great chocolate lover, but he managed to only sample most of it."

"We were also given a variety of Mr. Apartian's favorite dessert: cheese," Mr. Feazell continued. "Mr. Apartian chided us about the chocolate but said we could eat cheese to our hearts' content."

"And the kind of cheese they have over there," Mr. Tkach joked, "well, if you can get it past your nose I think you might be able to eat it!"

"Actually that's a compliment," Mr. Apartian told *The Worldwide News* Aug. 10. "The worse the cheese smells the better it tastes. You judge a cheese by its smell."

### Italy

That evening the G-III took the group to Rome's Ciampino Airport, where they were greeted by regional director Carn Catherwood, his wife, Joyce, Michael Caputo, pastor of the Rome, Milan and Catania, Italy, churches, his wife, Leonilda, and others.

July 20 the pastor general spoke to 125 brethren from the Rome, Milan and Catania churches in the Hotel dei Congressi. Members from the Venice area traveled 700 miles (1,120 kilometers); those from Sicily, 600 miles (960 kilometers).

"He spoke about the need for peace and unity, the importance of fully understanding our high calling and the need for each of us to be active participants to get the job done," said Mr. Catherwood. Mr. Caputo translated Mr. Tkach's message into Italian.

"Mr. Tkach seemed especially moved and inspired during his mes-

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# Are unprecedented Soviet changes for real?

PASADENA—It is apparent that truly unprecedented changes are under way in the Soviet Union.

Some skeptics have thought that programs pushed by the energetic Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev were little else than deceptive window dressing designed to hoodwink the West. Either that or Mr. Gorbachev's programs were so ambitious that the nation's entrenched bureaucracy would abort them before they saw the light of day.

Unbelievers, however, had to sit up and take notice Aug. 3 when the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee, coupled with the government's Council of Ministers, approved 11 decrees implementing legislation mandating sweeping economic changes.

## Moscow shifts responsibility

The most important decrees shift decision-making authority for production and prices in the nation's 48,000 large state enterprises. No longer will decisions be set by central administrators in Moscow.

The new Law on State Enterprises assigns this authority to local plant managers who will be responsible for their own profits and losses. They will, in turn, have to be much more in tune with the marketplace—the needs and desires of long-suffering Soviet consumers.

The new program goes into effect in January and should be fully implemented by the beginning of 1991. Thus, once again dates in the

early 1990s loom significant. As we've reported before, the removal of internal trade barriers inside the 12-nation European Community (Common Market) is scheduled for the end of 1992.

The Soviets, if experience is any guide, will probably find it difficult meeting their ambitious deadline. It could slide closer to that of the EC, meaning the two economies could complete their respective reorganizations at roughly the same time—and be in position for closer economic and political coordination.

Experts realize a gigantic amount of inertia must be overcome to put the new policy into effect—from entrenched interests in the economic bureaucracy to skeptical workers on the shop floor. A dubious public accustomed to either shortages or an overabundance of unwanted, often shoddy, items produced according to unrealistic master plans, must also be convinced.

Yet, Mr. Gorbachev is determined to see his ideas through. He has called for the convening of a special Central Committee to review progress toward economic restructuring, known as *perestroika* in Russian.

*Perestroika*, incidentally, is proceeding in pace with another policy, one more publicized in the West: *glasnost*. Roughly translated "openness," this policy refers to the new, more open spirit of candor on the part of Soviet authorities, both as they deal with the West and in

the manner they allow greater cultural freedom in the Soviet Union.

## Impact on Western Europe

The big question is: Where is a reform-oriented Soviet Union headed? First of all, the renovation program is making a sizeable impression on the nations of Western

Europe. One of the general secretary's chief lieutenants in the reform program is Aleksandr Yakovlev, a new full Politburo member. Mr. Yakovlev is said to have a profound dislike of the United States.

On the other hand he shows great interest in fostering greater relations with Western Europe and Japan. His strategy aims at tapping these areas in order to close the Soviet Union's industrial and technological gap.

Then too, with well-timed proposals regarding the removal of European-based nuclear missiles, Mr. Gorbachev has polished his image as a peacemaker. In fact it is so high that West German, British and Dutch public opinion polls reveal

was convinced previous Soviet leaders would reject them.

Now some observers are wondering whether the shrewd Soviet leader just might take Mr. Reagan up on the latter's June 12 plea in front of the Brandenburg Gate and Berlin Wall: "Mr. Gorbachev, open this gate! Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!"

Even a partial opening of the Berlin Wall would send shock waves through Western capitals—and greatly enhance the Soviet Union's prestige.

It is not only the West that is in for a few surprises. The twin policies of *glasnost* and *perestroika* have proven to be extremely unsettling to the current leaders of the

Soviet-bloc nations of Eastern and Central Europe.

Ironically, the Soviets are pressing Czechoslovakia to effect reforms similar to what the Czechs were introducing in the late 1960s—before Soviet and Warsaw Pact tanks rolled in to end what was known then as the Prague Spring.

A joke making the rounds throughout Eastern Europe is that Warsaw Pact generals from East Germany, Czechoslovakia and other East bloc nations conducted a secret meeting—and decided to invade the Soviet Union!

For several reasons the status quo of the post-World War II period in Europe, in place for more than four decades, is coming to an end. A much closer relationship between a more unified Western Europe and the Soviet sphere appears inevitable.

On a state visit to Moscow this year, West German President Richard von Weizsaecker urged Soviet authorities to stop thinking in terms of opposing East and West blocs. Dr. von Weizsaecker and many other West German officials continually emphasize that the key to German unification lies in overcoming the political division of Europe as a whole. Under terms of a general European settlement, Moscow might be obliged to grant greater political latitude for parts of Eastern Europe.

Who knows if the cultural reforms under the banner of *glasnost* just might provide an opening someday for the announcement of the Gospel into the Soviet-bloc area?

## WORLDWATCH

By Gene H. Hogberg



Europe.

One of the general secretary's chief lieutenants in the reform program is Aleksandr Yakovlev, a new full Politburo member. Mr. Yakovlev is said to have a profound dislike of the United States.

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## Just one more thing

By Dexter H. Faulkner

## An extra mile of service

Recently, I took my car in for a 60,000-mile service check.

When I picked it up the car was ready on time and the cost was just what the service manager estimated. But that's not the end of the story.

A week or so later, I got a call from the auto dealer. The polite woman on the other end wanted to know: Was my car ready on time? Was everything done satisfactorily? Was the service manager courteous? Did I have any suggestions on how they could improve their service?

That follow-up call made me feel good. I applaud that auto dealer for going the extra mile to make sure customers are satisfied. I wish more companies would do that.

It made me think of how we as Christians should be applying the same principle of service in our lives. Christians who care serve one another and go that extra mile.

### An attitude of service

Paul wrote about the attitude we should have: "For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another" (Galatians 5:13).

What it all boils down to is that we are called to be servants. Ouch! Servants? Who wants to be a servant?

Ask yourself some frank questions: Would you like to be like Jesus Christ? Is there anyone in history you'd rather be like? What would you give to be like Christ?

Paul combined powerful suggestions for promoting Christian unity into the following description of Jesus. Condensed in these verses is some of life's most explosive material—elements that can revolutionize our Christian lives!

"Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: who,

being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!" (Philippians 2:5-8, New International Version).

What a description of Jesus! He was a servant—an example for us. He gave Himself for others. He went that extra mile. Catch the idea?

Here a being identical with God the Father humbled Himself and became a man. He emptied Himself. He took the form of a servant.

See the contrast between the humble Christ washing His disciples' feet and the power-oriented success syndrome so dominant in Satan's society today? Jesus even went to the stake. By losing Himself, He exalted Himself. He rose from the grave triumphant in the ultimate service to others.

Christ didn't reserve this exciting principle for Himself. He taught it to others. He said, "If any man desire to be first, the same shall be last of all, and servant of all" (Mark 9:35).

Christ wasn't teaching gimmicks. This wasn't a clever sales course. It was a spiritual course in preparation for eternal life!

### A servant's life-style

Living the life-style of a servant involves a radical restructuring of our value systems. We're so accustomed to viewing success as quantity and not quality. It's easy to get caught up in the numbers game.

But we as Christians are to set the example for the world by acting on the principles Christ teaches us.

Management consultant Peter

Drucker talks about upward and downward authority in his book *The Effective Executive*. He writes: "The man who focuses on efforts and who stresses his downward authority is a subordinate no matter how exalted his title and rank. But the man who focuses on contribution and who takes responsibility for results, no matter how junior, is in the most literal sense of the phrase, 'top management'" (Harper & Row, page 53).

This is a management application of a spiritual principle we can all apply in our daily lives.

But how quickly we forget our calling to be servants! How absorbed we become in our own self-interests. How insensitive we become to the needs of others while seeking to satisfy our own.

### Ways to serve

What are some ways to serve? There are many, but I'll mention a few.

How about including a widow when you invite people over? One man said he was surprised when a widow told him she appreciated the male company he offered. You can help fulfill the needs a woman enjoyed for so long but is now without.

Singles, why not look at dating as service? It can be tremendously uplifting for women when gentlemen show consideration for them and give them a nice time. Don't let a feeling of inferiority keep you from serving.

Realize you have something to offer. It's not a sign of pride or vanity to realize you have something to offer someone and then to give it to them. In fact it may be a case of burying your talent, if you don't.

When we give of our time in service to others we are laying down our lives for them and fulfilling Christ's admonition in John 15:13.

What joy, what wholeness of life we bring both to others and to ourselves when we faithfully carry out the attitudes and practices of being a servant! And what joy awaits us when we hear the wonderful words of our older Brother: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant" (Matthew 25:21).

Just one more thing . . . remember: As in a game of tennis, a good server seldom loses. Serve with gusto. Serve one another.

## European Diary

By John Ross Schroeder



## 1066: significant date in the history of Britain

BOREHAMWOOD, England—Not every year is of equal importance. Not every century has the same significance. Not even every millennium should be assigned the same priority in history.

Truly significant dates are rightly remembered. The year 1066 is one such date.

### The Vikings and 1066

That was the year of the Norman invasion of Britain. Many have assumed this as an incursion of the French race. Nothing could be further from the truth. Numerous histories affirm the conquering race was of Scandinavian origin. Hear just one.

"From Denmark people came to take over the chief parts of east and northeast England and the Province of Normandy in France" (P.G. Foote and D.M. Wilson, *The Viking Achievement*, page xv).

Many events were in preparation. Many players in different parts of Europe unknowingly plodded toward the same goal. It was what came before that produced 1066.

Pre-Norman Britain had Scandinavian as well as Anglo-Saxon roots. England was ruled by Danish kings in the early 11th century (1013-1042).

The city of York is Viking in origin and to this day is heavily influenced by Norse culture. Many come from afar to visit York's Jorvik Museum—portraying Scandinavian culture. *Jorvik* is York's Norse name.

There was even Norman influence in England before the invasion in 1066. Edward the Confessor was king of England from mid-1042 to early January, 1066. His mother was Queen Emma, the illegitimate

daughter of Richard I, Duke of Normandy, and the aunt of Duke William—later the Conqueror.

Indeed, according to one story, William was promised the throne of England before the Norman invasion. He thought himself the legitimate successor to Edward the Confessor.

### Three kings contend for England

Whatever the truth, a geographical triangle developed that led to the crucial battles in the autumn of 1066. At the northernmost tip was King Harald Sigurdsson, or Harald Hardrada, of Norway. Later generations called him Harald the Ruthless. At 51 he was at the peak of his powers—the last of the great Viking kings.

At the western corner sat Harold II of England—the last of the strictly Anglo-Saxon kings. He succeeded the Confessor in early January.

At the southern corner Duke William of Normandy waited for the right time. His early years were an exercise in survival against many challenges to his rulership. By mid-century he had finally established his authority over Normandy. His eyes turned northward across the English Channel.

Harold II knew invasion was likely from both Norway and Normandy. Months were spent in preparation. Harald Hardrada struck first. Sept. 20 this Viking king penetrated the northern defenses near York.

But five days later Harold II surprised him at Stamford Bridge. The Norwegian army was decimated and Harald Hardrada lay dead. The long Viking harassment came to a halt. (To be continued)

# Europe

(Continued from page 1)

sage to the Italian brethren," Mr. Feazell said. "Many of the brethren had taken a day off work to travel to Rome for the service."

On behalf of the brethren, Mr. Catherwood presented Mr. Tkach with a Roman vase made of white Italian marble, sculpted by member Johann Kersten, and a plaque with stone from the Appian Way.

Mr. Tkach then raised Mr. Catherwood to the rank of evangelist (W/N, Aug. 3). "I have known Mr. Catherwood for nearly 30 years now and have witnessed the fruit God has produced through him," Mr. Tkach wrote Aug. 4.

"I'm sure the Catherwoods would appreciate your prayers for them in this responsibility, as well as for the ongoing work in the Italian language, where God is granting continued growth," he added.

Italian children performed a folk dance and folk song titled *Quel Mazzolin di Fiori* ("This Bouquet of Flowers"), specially adapted for Mr. Tkach's visit. Homemade refreshments included a cake four feet long and shaped like the Italian peninsula.

"All the brethren joined in for a special song in honor of the second time that an apostle has visited Rome," Mr. Catherwood said. The lyrics read: "Millennia have gone by and finally he has arrived. In Paul's footsteps he has followed on toward us. And we welcome God's apostle and a welcome we offer you, Mr. Tkach."

An afternoon of sight-seeing included some of Rome's historic areas, such as the Colosseum, Trevi Fountain, the Forum and ruins of the ancient city.

Historically, the Roman Forum was a complex of open spaces and government buildings, temples and shops, shut off to chariot traffic. Senators, priests, businessmen and shoppers daily thronged the area on foot.

Romulus, Rome's founder, is said to be buried here, and Caesar's murder took place in the Forum.

"It is an awe-inspiring experience to see the ancient and the modern side by side, and walk the same roads other people of God walked two millennia ago," Mr. Feazell commented. "It gives you a sense of history not possible in the United States."

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July 21 the group saw the Via Appia, first of the great Roman roads, opened in 312 B.C. and extending 360 miles (576 kilometers) to the Adriatic port of Brindisi.

They also toured Vatican City, a 108-acre sovereign state, seat of Roman Catholicism and residence of popes since 1377. Up spiral stairs the group climbed some 480 steps to the cupola (dome of St. Peter's Basilica) for a view of the city. They also saw the Sistine Chapel.

### Malta

July 22 the G-III left for Valletta, where Mr. Tkach was met by evangelist Frank Brown, regional director for Britain, Scandinavia, East and West Africa and the Middle East; his wife, Sharon; David Stirk, business manager for East and West Africa in the British Office; and his wife, Carol.

Afternoon activities featured a bus tour of the city, with temperatures hovering around 105 degrees Fahrenheit (40 Celsius).

"Air-conditioned buses meant having all the windows open and a vent in the top of the roof," Mr. Tkach related. "When we asked the driver to turn up the air conditioning a little higher, he just sped up. That forced the air through the bus, hot air at that!"

The pastor general continued: "There's quite a bit of history that revolves around Malta."

"Hitler gave Mussolini orders to take over Malta. He tried his best but failed. Then Hitler tried to take over Malta, but he failed as well. As a result of the Maltese bravery and heroism, King George VI of England presented them with the George Cross," Britain's highest civilian decoration.

A boat cruise in Valletta Harbor was followed by a trip to St. Paul's Bay to see the island where the apostle Paul was shipwrecked (Acts 27).

That evening services in the Hilton Hotel were conducted for 67 brethren "from all parts of the island," according to Mr. Brown. Before the sermon children performed a song in Maltese.

The pastor general explained how brethren compose one family, that God is a God of all peoples and how he, Mr. Tkach, is measuring the altar (Revelation 11:1) and binding the Church together, said Mr. Brown.

After services Mr. Tkach was given a silver oil lamp and an open Maltese Bible on a wooden stand. The inscription read: "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" (Psalm 119:105).

The pastor general was then host to a barbecue for members, spent the night in Valletta and boarded the G-III for West Germany July 23. At the airport, before their departure, Theresa Fenech from Malta said, "I think he would like to stay and talk to us all day."

### West Germany

Touching down in the Bavarian capital of Munich, the party was met by John Karlson, acting regional director; his wife, Kristina; Winfried Fritz, pastor of the Munich and Nuremberg, West Germany, and Vienna and Salzburg, Austria, churches; and his wife, Carola.

Later in the day Mr. Tkach, his group, ministers and their wives went by bus to Dachau, 20 miles northwest of Munich, where they were met by Mark Schnee from the Bonn Office and Erwin Schotten, a member from Hamburg, West Germany, and German history expert.

A tour of the former Nazi concentration camp consisted of a 25-minute film about Jewish and other prisoners' forced slave labor and gruesome experiments conducted on them in the 1930s and '40s.

Returning to Munich, Mr. Tkach and his party went up the Olympic Tower at Olympia Park, site of the 1972 Olympic Games. At 570 feet, the tower has a circular three-floor observation nest, featuring a view of

Munich, upper Bavaria and, weather permitting, the Alps.

July 24 the group went by bus to Nuremberg, while the flight crew took the G-III there. The group visited the Reichsparteitag, site of Nazi Party congresses conducted annually from 1933 to 1938.

After lunch at the Gasthaus Rottner restaurant, the group visited the war trials room, where for 10 months Nazi leaders were indicted and tried as war criminals by the International Military Tribunal from 1945 to 1946.

That afternoon Mr. Tkach boarded the G-III for Duesseldorf.

### Duesseldorf

Meeting the group at the airport were Mr. Schnee; his wife, Esther; Grant Spong, pastor of the Bonn and Duesseldorf and Darmstadt churches; his wife, Jennifer; associate pastor Alfred Hellemann; and his wife, Margarete.

On the Sabbath, July 25, services were conducted in the Hilton Hotel for 868 brethren, representing churches in Antwerp, Belgium; De Bilt, Tilburg and Zwolle, Netherlands; Bonn and Duesseldorf, Hamburg, Hannover and West Berlin, West Germany.

Also attending were Marcin Jarczyk from Poland, Heinz and Kaethe Pistorius, deacon and deaconess from Zwickau, East Germany, and Lydia Harz from Jena, East Germany.

A combined Bonn and Duesseldorf and Netherlands choir, directed by Bram de Bree, Dutch regional director, sang "Onward Ye Peoples" by Jean Sibelius. They were accompanied on piano by Barbara Lee.

As his message was simultaneously translated into German and Dutch, Mr. Tkach spoke about the unity and love necessary to do the work and be a part of the temple God is building, according to Mr. Spong.

After Mr. Tkach's sermon, brethren shook his hand, got his autograph and were photographed with him.

A buffet dinner, to which Mr. Tkach was host, took place in the Schatten room for ministers, deacons, deaconesses and their spouses. "He did not formally address them but did ask the couple at each table who had been married the longest to stand up and tell how long they had been married and how many children they had," said Mr. Spong. "The flower arrangement at each table was then presented by Mr. Tkach to this couple."

"It was the best dinner I have had anywhere since the dinner we had with Mr. [Herbert] Armstrong our senior year at college," Mr. Spong remarked. "It's the best thing that's happened to Germany for a long time."

"Mr. Tkach is a living example

for us in how to love our neighbor," said Mr. Schnee. "All the German brethren were uplifted."

"He's trying to glue it all together and make us beautiful people," said Johannes Wilms, manager of the Dutch Office.

Sunday, July 26, the party, accompanied by the Karlsons and Fritzes, boarded the G-III for Stuttgart.

### Stuttgart

Greeting the pastor general and his party were Henry Sturcke, pastor of the Zurich and Basel, Switzerland, and Stuttgart churches, and his wife, Edeltraut.

Four hundred sixty-eight brethren from Darmstadt, Munich, Nuremberg and Stuttgart, West Germany, Salzburg and Vienna, Austria, and Basel and Zurich, Switzerland, attended services in the Stadthalle in Leonberg, near Stuttgart.

Before Mr. Tkach's address, Frankie Weinberger of the German Office sang a solo from I Corinthians 13 titled "Und Hatte der Liebe Nicht" ("And Had No Love in Me"), composed and accompanied on piano by Mark Schnee.

After Mr. Tkach spoke, Mr. Fritz presented him with a wooden relief of an Alpine mountain guide, with an inscription of the qualities of a guide: "Leadership, strength, courage, concern, responsibility, reliability. He leads his team to the top."

Describing the pastor general's impact on brethren, Mr. Fritz said: "There isn't any gap between Mr. Tkach and us. He is like a brother. It was very impressive."

"The brethren really appreciated what they saw and experienced," Mr. Karlson remarked.

"Mr. Tkach made a very strong impression on the brethren, especially because it was so evident how much concern he has for the elderly and handicapped," Mr. Sturcke said.

"He is so—I don't know how to put it in good English, but, uncomplicated," said Mrs. Sturcke. "You can just go up and talk to him."

"Mr. Tkach is so humanly warm," said Rose Ecker of Salzburg. "He makes you feel like he is your brother, not like he's looking down from above, but like he's one of you... I told him I think he is wonderful."

After meeting brethren, the pastor general was host to a buffet dinner in the Stuttgart Holiday Inn.

Sunday evening the group, accompanied by Mark Schnee, left in the G-III for the Cologne/Bonn airport.

### Bonn

There to meet them were Mr. and Mrs. Schnee, Mr. and Mrs. Spong and Mr. and Mrs. Hellemann.

July 27 Mr. Tkach and his party toured the Bonn Office and listened to departmental presentations. The German Office celebrated its 25th anniversary during Mr. Tkach's visit.

After lunch with the staff in the Bristol Hotel, the group visited the Ambascos Press Office, which opened in 1967 as a cooperative effort of the German Office and Alfred and Helene Hennig.

"The Hennigs are official photographers for the German government," according to Mrs. Weinberger of the Bonn Office.

"Through their office we obtain pictures, which are used in Church publications," she added. "We also have access to official governmental press conferences, which are conducted in the same building."

The next day the group left for West Berlin.

### Berlin

Arriving at Tegel Airport, Mr. Tkach and his party were met by Paul Kieffer, then pastor of the West Berlin, Hannover and Hamburg churches, who will direct Ministerial Services in the Manila, Philippines, Office, his wife, Mon-

ica, and Mr. and Mrs. Karlson.

Tuesday afternoon, July 28, a bus tour of West Berlin featured Olympia Stadium, site of the 1936 Olympic Games; Strasse des 17. Juni (Street of June 17), which commemorates a 1953 uprising in East Berlin suppressed by Russian troops; Brandenburg Gate, once the entrance to the city from the west; Potsdam Square; and the Reichstag, the former houses of parliament, beside the River Spree.

Crosses at the Reichstag memorialize people who, while attempting to swim across the river to West Berlin, were discovered and shot.

At Checkpoint Charlie, gateway to the East bloc, the group entered East Berlin through the 28-mile concrete wall that, guarded by East German soldiers, has separated East Berlin from West Berlin since 1961.

"When we crossed Checkpoint Charlie, it was obvious that we were in a different area completely," Mr. Tkach related. "It was quite sobering."

In East Berlin they visited the Pergamon Museum; Unter den Linden Strasse (Under the Lime Trees Street), the main boulevard; the Memorial for the Victims of Fascism and Militarism; and the Soviet War Memorial, erected for the Russian war dead who lost their lives in capturing Berlin.

Before he left West Berlin, brethren there gave the pastor general a card thanking him for the *Plain Truth* newsstand program. "Today the true message of peace is being brought to this city by the great newsstand program," the card read in part.

"We look forward to true freedom for all people in the world tomorrow. Our wish for you, Mr. Tkach, is that you will take with you our loyalty to God's work, our special affection and our thanks for the wonderful newsstand program. Your brethren in Berlin."

The pastor general wrote Aug. 4: "The time is coming when there will no longer be divided cities, divided nations or a divided world. As we grow in unity in one family—one spiritual Temple made up of building blocks from every corner of the earth—God is preparing for us a marvelous future in that wonderful world to come!"

The next morning, July 29, Mr. Tkach and his party left for Amsterdam.

### Netherlands

At the Schiphol-East Airport Mr. de Bree and his wife, Geertruida, escorted the group to the Mondriaan Lounge, where children in Dutch dress and wooden shoes sang a welcome song.

"The children presented a pair of hand-painted, authentic wooden shoes to Mr. Tkach and challenged him to try them on," according to Mr. de Bree. "Mr. Tkach took this challenge upon him and experienced for a moment what it is like to be on Dutch feet."

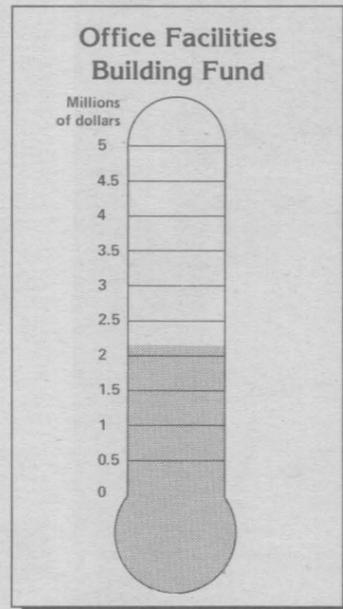
Mr. de Bree gave the pastor general a card made by Gerard van Hees, a Dutch member, portraying an airport runway carpeted with Dutch, Belgian and American flags woven together. The card "symbolizes Mr. Tkach's mission in this end time of weaving all the churches closer together," said Yvonne Hermans of the Dutch Office.

The group, accompanied by the de Brees, Mr. Wilms and his wife, Miek, then left for Nieuwegein to visit the regional office, where they viewed a presentation of the Dutch-language area and ate lunch with the staff.

"Mr. de Bree challenged all the 'foreigners' to try the typical *Hollandse Nieuwe* (Dutch New), as the Dutch call their freshly caught herring, marinated, salted and topped with chopped onions," said Miss Hermans.

The regional director demon-

(See EUROPE, page 8)



**SECOND MILLION**—As of Aug. 12 individuals and church areas donated \$2,150,277.35 to the Office Facilities Building fund.



PARIS, FRANCE



VALLETTA, MALTA



AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS

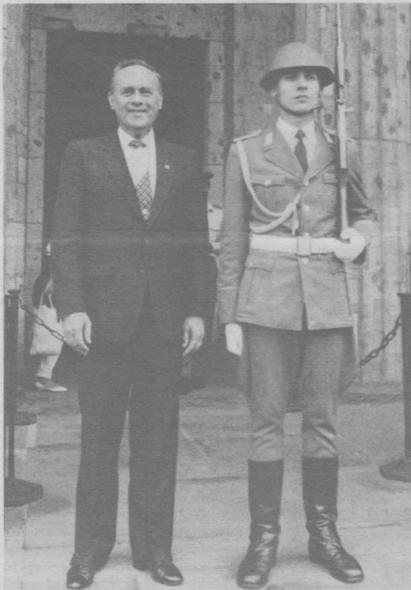


BONN, WEST GERMANY



ROME, ITALY

# Sharing the joy of God's calling



EAST BERLIN, EAST GERMANY

**SPIRITUAL FAMILY**—Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach's July 15 to Aug. 2 trip to Europe and Britain was described as "a living example for us in how to love our neighbor." Clockwise from top left: "Go on, try it. These are all good," says evangelist Dibar Apartian, French regional director, urging Mr. Tkach to try cheeses after a tour of the Paris, France, Office; in traditional dress, Michael and Gloria Zerafa, twin children of Maltese members Alfred and Elizabeth Zerafa, welcome the pastor general to Valletta, Malta, with a bouquet of flowers; in Amsterdam, Netherlands, Mr. Tkach prepares to try on hand-painted shoes given to him by Laurens de Groot (left) and Natalie Vermeer, children of Dutch members; Mr. Tkach gives Frank Schnee, German regional director, and his wife, Esther, a Baccarat crystal decanter and six wine glasses at 25th anniversary celebrations in Bonn, West Germany; the pastor general addresses 125 brethren in Rome, Italy; experiencing "Dutch feet" in Amsterdam; John Karlson (center), acting German regional director, explains a display at the Dachau concentration camp in West Germany; at the Geneva, Switzerland, Office with office manager Bernard Andrist, his wife, Maria-Jose, and son, Patrick; Francis Bergin, business manager of the British

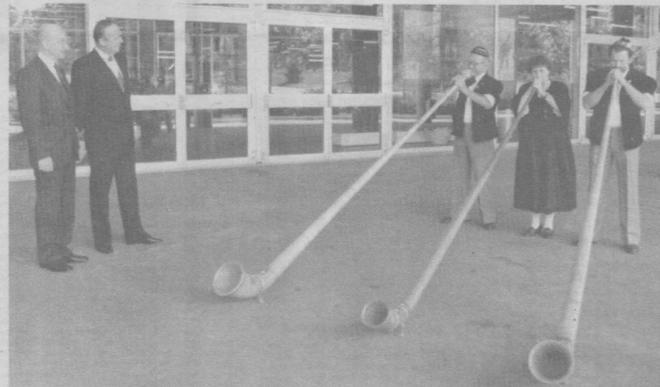
Office, after being ordained to pastor rank by Mr. Tkach (left) in London, hugs Paul Suckling, director of Ministerial Services, as evangelist Frank Brown (second from left), British regional director, and Robin Jones (far right), pastor of the Godalming, Reading and Southampton, England, churches, look on; surrounded in Duesseldorf, West Germany, by (from left) Edeltraut Sturcke, Mark Sturcke, Deborah Mayberry, Wolfgang Thomsen, Eric Sturcke, Sarah Mayberry, deacon Bernhard Thomsen, his wife, Emmy, and Henry Sturcke, pastor of the Zurich and Basel, Switzerland, and Stuttgart, West Germany, churches; and posing with a guard in front of the Memorial for the Victims of Fascism and Militarism in East Berlin. Below, from left: Dutch children wait for the pastor general to land in Amsterdam; evangelist Carn Catherwood, Italian regional director (center), escorts the pastor general, his party and Michael Caputo (right), pastor of the Rome, Milan and Catania, Italy, churches, and his wife, Leonilda, through St. Peter's Square after touring Vatican City; musicians play Swiss horns before Mr. Tkach enters the Palais des Expositions et des Congress in Geneva. [Photos by Theo de Groot, Michael Rasmussen, Mark Schnee, Tony Stagno, Wolfgang Thomsen and Cliffton Veal]



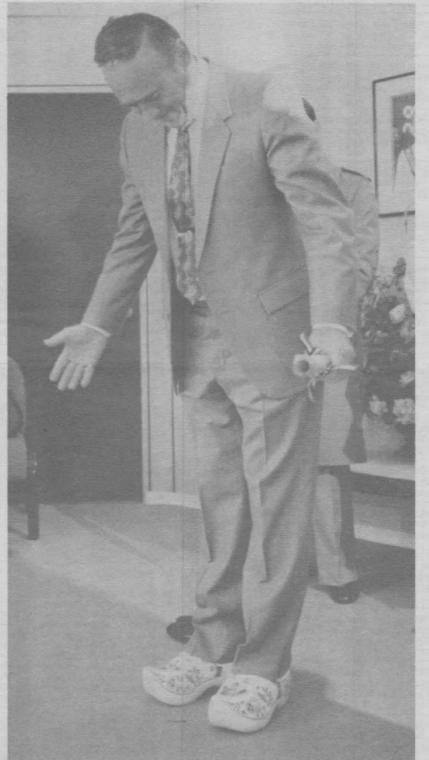
AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS



VATICAN CITY



GENEVA, SWITZERLAND



AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS



DUESSELDORF, WEST GERMANY



LONDON, ENGLAND



GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, OFFICE



DACHAU, WEST GERMANY



## PERSONAL

(Continued from page 1)

ural enmity against God and is vigilant to overcome it.

So it is no wonder that you feel at home with God's elect wherever you may find them around the world. We are truly one family.

Through the ages, all those who have been given and led by God's Holy Spirit have been one in Him. As we have read often, Jesus prayed in John 17:20-21, "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; that they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be

one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me."

Were it not for these first-fruits, called as God's elect to pave the way into the world tomorrow, the world would never hear nor believe the true Gospel message Jesus brought during His life and ministry on earth—that of His soon return to establish His Father's Kingdom over all nations.

Revelation 20:4-6 shows us that they will live and reign with Christ, teaching the nations God's way as His immortal priests, for the thousand years following Christ's return until the time of the great white throne judgment spoken of in verses 11 to 15.

After that, all eternity of inde-

scribable joy and supreme accomplishment and fulfillment lies ahead for God's everlastingly united family.

Brethren, let's never forget what it is that *makes* us one family. It is not merely our own emotion or human love for one another. It is the Spirit of God within us by His mercy that *leads* us to submit our every thought and action to God's supreme and loving authority over us.

His Holy Spirit is the "tie that binds," the glue, the spiritual "blood" that makes us one, that makes us His begotten children and makes Jesus Christ our elder brother.

We could never be one family without Jesus Christ dwelling in

us through the Holy Spirit. Our unity with one another is *based* upon and *dependent* upon our unity with God, just as the branches of a tree are united with each other *only because they are firmly and securely attached to the trunk!*

Jesus explained that He is the vine and we are the branches in John 15:5: "I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing."

Our calling is a serious one indeed! How important is the love of God to us? In verses 9 and 10 of John 15 Jesus admonishes: "As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love."

God's law is a *living* law. It produces happiness, joy, peace of mind and every good result—including true Godly unity. But in order for it to produce these things, it must be *kept!*

It will do nothing for you to just *know* God's law. Even the demons know the law. As the apostle James said, "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves" (James 1:22).

God's law cements His people together because it *defines*

Godly relationships between man and His Creator and between man and fellowman.

Brethren, the climactic events that will mark the end of this age are drawing ever closer. Let's take ever more seriously the responsibility God has placed upon us to come *out* of the ways of this present evil world, and to draw ever more unitedly together in the love of God and one another. God's family is a family of *overcomers!*

There is a kind of unity that is not based upon God's law, and is not made possible through His Holy Spirit. That brand of unity is what will soon bind together for a short time the final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire.

It is a unity, like most of man's "peace" treaties, that will result in aggression, destruction, suffering, misery, sorrow and anguish. Mankind does *not* know the way to peace.

But brethren, God has opened the minds of His elect to understand the way to true and permanent peace, and to be putting it into practice even now, with His help and power, in the midst of a wayward and dying world.

As the Fall Holy Days draw near, let's strive to renew daily our commitment to the marvelous calling and exciting responsibility God has laid before us. Let's never forget *why* we are one family!

# Asking for time off from school: Put thought into your approach

By Bernard Schnippert

The Feast of Tabernacles is coming soon, and most preparations for the Feast are fun. But if one detail tops the list for being the most distasteful, it is probably that of requesting time off from school for the children.

Still, if the chore is properly approached, the pain can be minimized. Here are some tips.

*Bernard Schnippert is an executive assistant to WN editor Dexter Faulkner.*

First, prepare in advance. Start by training your child to be a good student and well behaved. It is common sense that teachers will go the extra mile for someone with a good reputation.

Then do some research. Find out the school's absentee policy. See if the Holy Days are already recognized and formally approved. This sometimes is the case because God's Holy Days are at about the same time as the Jewish days, and the Jewish days may already be on the school calendar.

Also, find out the school's policy about how many days are allowed for make-up work to be done after returning to school. This is helpful to know when you return from the Feast.

Next, find out who at the school should be dealt with (for example, the principal, the teachers or the attendance coordinator), and whether you should call, write a note or go in person. These things vary with grade level, school size and individual policy.

No matter who you must speak with, or how (a note or in person), your general strategy is the same. First, approach the school a reasonable time ahead of your departure date. Two or three weeks in advance is probably about right.

State or write politely in a matter-of-fact tone that your children will be with you attending the required religious Holy Days of your church (do not represent it as a vacation), and that you want to arrange for time off.

Mention the name of the Church and the name of the Holy Days if they seem interested. State that the child's education is extremely important to you, and that you wish to

obtain homework in advance if possible.

Be prepared to answer a few simple, nonpersonal questions about the Church, the days or your beliefs if asked. Do not be unnecessarily defensive. Also be prepared to tolerate a few surprised looks or annoyed-sounding comments from a teacher or principal.

Such responses are common and don't necessarily mean permission will be denied, or even that they disagree with the request. Some people view any disturbance of their schedule as a nuisance. Still, you don't have to take verbal abuse, and neither does your child.

If you receive permission, well and good. If not, pursue the subject with the administrators. Be firm but not angry, and do not threaten legal action. Use a level-by-level approach, going up the chain of command from your first contact, without skipping links, until you reach the principal.

If he or she denies your request, then call your pastor for counsel. He will advise you, become involved himself or speak with the Church's Legal Office and get its guidance.

Experience shows that these things are almost always resolved and permission is usually granted, although sometimes it is after a few unpleasant moments.

Remember that what you seek is approval for excused absence with permission to make up all work and tests, in a reasonable time, with no grade penalties of any kind. Anything less than this means you have been penalized for your beliefs and should be viewed as unacceptable by you.

If you receive or are threatened with such penalties and are unable to resolve them quickly to your complete satisfaction, then immediately confer with your pastor. It is not usually in your best interest, nor perhaps in the Church's, to allow such treatment. Your minister will have advice about what to do.

Finally, remember that your responsibility goes beyond simply getting the time off. You must work with your child to make sure he or she learns the missed material, does assignments within the time the school allows and makes up tests. Failure by you or your child in these areas cannot be blamed on the

teachers or the school.

The Feast is a wonderful time for the whole family. It is a joy to have our children with us at the Feast, and it is necessary for their spiritual development. A thoughtful approach almost always ensures that the Feast will not be marred by sour relations with your children's school.

## ACCENT ON THE LOCAL CHURCH

### Brethren celebrate silver anniversary

Medford, Ore., brethren celebrated the 25th anniversary of the church there July 11.

Visitors from nine states and Canada attended the activities, which included a portrayal of Noah and the Ark, musical numbers, including two signed for deaf members, and a videotape of pictures from the church's previous years.

Jeffery McGowan, pastor of the Medford and Klamath Falls, Ore., churches, gave the sermonette. Leonard Schreiber, who pastored the Medford church from 1974 to 1978, gave the sermon in afternoon services. Mr. Schreiber pastored the Eugene, Bend, Coos Bay and Roseburg, Ore., churches.

Afterward cake and punch were served.

The celebration continued July 12 with a potluck, games and fellowship. Cheerleaders performed a theme song of the 25 years of the Medford church. *Doris Cooke.*



LOADING THE ARK—Medford, Ore., youths enact the story of Noah and the Ark during July 11 celebrations of the 25th anniversary of the Medford church.

### Young and old tackle mountain trail

Braving a night of intermittent rain and rugged Rocky Mountain terrain, 30 members from the Meeker and Grand Junction, Colo., churches participated in a camp-out

and mountain climb July 11 and 12.

The climb, an annual event, was organized in two stages. Part of the group hiked halfway up Mt. Sopris Saturday night, July 11, and

camped near a mountain lake, while others camped at a lake closer to the base of the mountain.

Sunday morning those who wanted to make the summit met at the higher camp to climb 5,000 feet over a six-mile trail to the 12,900-foot peak.

Fourteen climbers reached the peak by midafternoon. The youngest climber was 7 years old, and the oldest, Virgil Newquist, is more than 70. All climbers returned to the trail head by 6:30 p.m. *Lori McCoy.*

### Members mark 25th year

Philadelphia, Pa., brethren celebrated the 25th anniversary of the church there July 18.

Carlton Smith, pastor of the San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara, Calif., churches, conducted the first service in Philadelphia March 24, 1962. Attendance was about 150.

About 1,300 attended Sabbath services for the anniversary celebration.

Donald Traynor, a local church elder and pioneer member in Philadelphia, introduced about 40 pioneer members who attended. Arthur Dyer, pastor of the Vineland, N.J., and Philadelphia churches, concluded services. After

a dinner break, the group returned for slide shows on the Philadelphia church and the history of the true Church in the United States.

The evening concluded with a family dance. *Russ and Sue O'Quinn.*

### Youths search for gems

Gold Coast, Australia, Church youths set out June 28 on a 700-kilometer drive to the opal fields of Lightning Ridge, Australia, for five days in the outback.

The youths were shown how to look for opals in dry riverbeds, deep

quarries, underground mines and in the red dust outside the huts where they slept. They found opals ranging from deep black to vivid blues and purples, and watched them being sorted and washed. *Andrea Patey.*

#### Holy Day Envelopes

Holy Day offering envelopes for the Fall Festival season have been mailed. If you do not receive your supply by Sept. 8, please call the toll-free number (1-800-423-4444) no later than Sept. 16. This is the last date the Mail Processing Center can mail personalized envelopes with assurance that they will reach you by the Feast of Trumpets (Sept. 24).

# NEWS OF PEOPLE, PLACES & EVENTS IN THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

PASADENA—*Plain Truth* subscriptions reached a new high of 5.3 million, according to **Dexter Faulkner**, editor of the Church's publications.

According to the Mail Processing Center 3.6 million of those receive *The Plain Truth* in the United States.

Worldwide circulation of *The Good News* is now more than one million, and *Youth 87* has a circulation of 345,000, also new records, Mr. Faulkner said.

★ ★ ★

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa—When a car bomb exploded outside a military headquarters here July 30, Church member **Peter Hubner** was less than a block

away. He was not injured.

"There was flying glass and debris all over the place, and we found out afterwards that 68 people were injured by the blast, which was a car bomb set off by terrorists at the army barracks next to our building," Mr. Hubner said.

"I was not hurt in any way, and my car was not even scratched, even though I saw people lying injured in the streets. If I had been even 10 seconds earlier at the site, I would have sustained bad injury. I know I had divine protection."

No other members were injured in the incident.

★ ★ ★

EDMONTON, Alta.—No Church members were injured

when a series of tornadoes swept through Edmonton, Alta., and its suburbs, Friday, July 31, according to **Gordon Graham**, associate pastor of the Edmonton South church.

At least 25 people were killed and about 200 were injured, according to the Los Angeles (Calif.) *Times* Aug. 2.

The twisters flattened homes, tossed cars into the air and destroyed a trailer park, the report said. At least 13 people died, 200 mobile homes were destroyed and 150 trailers were damaged in the trailer park.

Mr. Graham said one Church family lives in that trailer park. They were not injured, and their trailer was undamaged.

The basement of a local church elder's home was flooded because of heavy rains accompanying the tornadoes, and one member's brother was killed.

★ ★ ★

PASADENA—Videotapes of the May, 1986, commencement exercises are available to 1986

Pasadena Ambassador College graduates. Those interested in obtaining a copy should write to Ambassador College, Registrar's Office, 300 W. Green St., Pasadena, Calif., 91129, or call 818-304-6037.

★ ★ ★

PASADENA—Sixty-seven students from Bunkyo Women's Junior College in Japan arrived on the Ambassador College campus July 19 to study English and participate in cultural activities, according to **Scott Friesen**, assistant to **Arthur Suckling**, program coordinator.

College faculty members taught English classes, and the Japanese girls visited sites in the Los Angeles, Calif., area. It was the seventh year Bunkyo students have studied English here.

The girls were hosts for a Japanese art evening in the college student center.

The program ended Aug. 11.

★ ★ ★

PASADENA—Ambassador

College summer commencement exercises took place Aug. 4 in the lower gardens. The following students received diplomas:

Associate of arts in theology: **Brian Glenn Bettes**, **Martha Eugenia Elizondo Flores**, **Sylvie Le Blanc Ringuette**, **James F. Stokes** and **Jack Wayne Taulbee**.

Associate of science in theology: **Beverly Elizabeth Cargill**.

Bachelor of arts in theology: **Pedro Luis Caro** (with distinction), **Carolyn Louise Brath**, **Ghislain R. Ringuette** and **Edward James Stephens**.

★ ★ ★

BIG SANDY—The Big Sandy Feast site is looking for skilled brass and woodwind players to accompany the choir and play for song services.

If you are interested, please send your name, address, name of the instrument you play, experience and an audition cassette tape (if possible) to **Bill Bartholomew**, 725 S. Glenwood Blvd., Tyler, Tex., 75701.

## Europe

(Continued from page 3)

strated how to properly eat the cleaned fish, by gripping its tail, holding it over his mouth and eating it from the beginning to end. Mr. Tkach, Mrs. Escat, Mr. Halford and Mr. Werings were brave enough to try the Dutch delicacy, according to Miss Hermans.

Mr. Tkach talked about his herring. "I love pickled herring," he said. "When Bram de Bree handed me one, I thought it was pickled. After I bit into it, I realized it was a raw herring that wasn't pickled at all! Now I'm a real Dutchman!"

After lunch Mr. de Bree, on behalf of Dutch brethren, gave Mr. Tkach a silver replica of a Dutch East India Co. ship *The Halve Maen* (The Half Moon), famous for the explorations of its English captain, Henry Hudson, in the employ of Holland. He also gave hand-painted Delft blue porcelain windmills to Mrs. Escat, Mrs. Fezell and Miss Weber. Mr. Tkach presented the de Brees with a crystal vase.

A tour of the Dutch countryside by bus that afternoon took the group to Rotterdam Harbor. They viewed a slide show about the harbor's history. A tour of the port on a private yacht followed.

The Netherlands "is the only place in the world, I believe, where when you're traveling by bus you can see a boat traveling above you," said the pastor general. "It's quite a unique experience... with all the windmills and scenery."

After dinner that evening, the group boarded a canal boat outside the Amstel Hotel for a candlelight tour through the Amsterdam canals, according to Mr. de Bree.

July 30 the party left for London.

### England

Stepping off the G-III at Luton Airport, Mr. Tkach was met by Mr. and Mrs. Brown; Barry Bourne, pastor of the London and Basildon churches; Francis Bergin, business manager of the British Office; David Gunn, *Plain Truth* circulation manager; and other staff members from the British Office.

Friday, July 31, the pastor general toured the Elstree House offices, where he was joined by legal counsel Ralph Helge, his wife, Ingrid, and evangelist Raymond McNair, deputy chancellor of Pasadena Ambassador College.

Mr. Tkach then chaired the annual general and board meetings and was host to a luncheon.

"Once again, I had the opportunity of renewing acquaintances with those members of God's family I met during my first trip to England [in July and August, 1986]," the pastor general said.

Mr. McNair went on to the Summer Educational Program (SEP) at Loch Lomond, Scotland.

That evening Mr. Tkach was notified that William Kessler Sr., a pastor-rank minister, was in a coma. The pastor general called the hospital in Tennessee and talked to Dr. Kessler's wife, Edith "Dee," encouraging her to remain strong during the trial.

Joseph Tkach Jr., assistant director of Church Administration, phoned his father from Pasadena Sabbath morning and told him that Dr. Kessler had died Friday evening.

On the Sabbath, before the pastor general spoke in the Wembley Conference Centre in London, a choir of more than 200 children ages 5 to 10, directed by Irene Wilson, sang "All Things Bright and Beautiful," adapted by Sonia

King.

A combined church choir, conducted by Duncan McLean and accompanied by Heather McCarthy, performed "And the Glory of the Lord" from Handel's *Messiah* and "New Heaven, New Earth," by Charles Romer.

Listening to the pastor general were about 2,500 brethren from 28 congregations in England and Wales, besides visitors from the Netherlands, Norway, France, Belgium and Switzerland.

After his address, Mr. Tkach raised Mr. Bergin to pastor rank, joined by Mr. Brown, Paul Suckling, director of Ministerial Services, and Robin Jones, pastor of Godalming, Reading and Southampton, England, churches.

A carved teakwood plaque depicting "The World Then," symbolizing the pre-Flood age and

taken from Genesis 6:5-7, was given to Mr. Tkach by San Abrahamson, a retired wood-carver from Norway, before services.

"A superb day, especially for newly attending persons," said Basil Harris, a deacon in the Gloucester church. "It was wonderful seeing so many people from one great British family."

"We came away spiritually uplifted," said Ernest Cardy, 90, of the Watford church who has been married to his wife, Isabel, 89, for 64 years.

Mr. Tkach "is a natural leader, and members react as if he has been in office for a long time," said Robin Jones, pastor of the Godalming, Reading and Southampton churches, who led songs. "He sets the pace and carries a burden that converted people of the Church

clearly recognize as being delegated from God."

Aug. 2 the group boarded the G-III for the 12-hour flight home back to Burbank. Mr. Tkach went to work in his Hall of Administration office the next morning.

According to Mrs. Escat: "Many people, especially the ladies of the Church, inquired about Mr. Tkach's wife [Elaine], how she was, that they loved her and are praying for her. Their best wishes are always for Mr. and Mrs. Tkach as a team."

"It was nice to know that the ladies around the world are very concerned about the welfare of the pastor general's wife."

"Mr. Tkach has remarked to the Church how strengthening and encouraging it is to know that God's people pray for them regularly," she added.

"Mr. Tkach showed us that we really are a family. He gave us the impression that each one of us can be a part of this family if we do our part," said Helmut Kaserer, a local church elder in Salzburg.

"Each of the regional office staffs made us feel richly welcome, quite literally like one family. We were made to feel at home everywhere we visited," said Mrs. Fezell.

After his trip, Mr. Tkach said: "There is undoubtedly much work ahead in Europe. We will need the wisdom and wherewithal to proceed as God wills, not as we will. Let's unitedly pray for wisdom to follow His lead as these exciting developments take place."



FROM OUR  
SCATTERED BRETHREN

"That also he should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad." (John 11:52)

PASADENA—Evangelist Larry Salyer, director of Church Administration, describes his experiences in Africa, where he attended the African ministerial conference in June. Mr. Salyer includes comments made by ministers in Africa.

### Ghana

In the wake of Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach's visit to Ghana in April, members "now see that their part in God's work goes beyond paying their tithes, praying for the work and being examples to others," according to Josef Forson, pastor of the Accra and Kumasi, Ghana, churches.

"The members now have a better understanding of what it means to be a part of the family and back up the ministry 100 percent. This renewed awakening and dedication to the work is definitely going to produce a crop of men and women who will be able to fulfill our manpower needs in the near future."

"Ghana is in a very improved economic situation," Mr. Forson continued. "The shops are full, there's plenty of food in the country. The average worker, however, is still unable to provide for himself and his family."

Many members "walk several miles a day to work and back, to save on transportation costs that would amount to about one third of their

wages," Mr. Forson said.

"This is why they are so grateful for Church-provided transportation on the Sabbath and to the farm. Nevertheless, income from co-workers is up 73 percent over last year. As of June, we have 77 co-workers and 33 donors, a 65 percent increase over last year."

### Nigeria

Lagos, Nigeria, the largest church in East or West Africa, is pastored by Lateef Edalere. In 1974 the first Feast of Tabernacles was conducted with 44 people. In June, 1987, Mr. Edalere received 1,200 letters in a single day.

Some areas of Nigeria have not been visited by a minister since 1981, partially because of worn-out automobiles and a lack of manpower. Automobiles are a problem because of lengthy delays in obtaining them and the terrain over which they have to travel.

Our prayers can be specific and detailed for the Church and its work in this part of Africa.

The following report is from Mr. Edalere: As the nation continues to strive with an unwieldy economy "members are seven times poorer, salaries remain at the 1982-1983 levels and the cost of traveling has increased 300 percent..."

"Members spend between 40 and 50 percent of their income on trans-

portation. Many can only come to services once a month."

Yet Mr. Edalere said he has not seen the righteous forsaken or his seed begging bread (Psalm 37:25). He said the brethren are excited about what they do have.

Mr. Edalere has 267 visit requests pending. The growth in visit requests last year was 90 percent, and the growth in attendance was 25 percent. The work is obviously moving forward.

### Tanzania

More than 15 people, four of whom are members, attend a weekly Bible study in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Ben Kaswaga, a local church elder in Tanzania, left his job to raise chickens, so he could be self-employed and be flexible to serve the Church.

In 1986 there were 20 Tanzanian shillings to a U.S. dollar. Now it takes 60.

### Uganda

After being politically and economically exploited, Uganda is relatively safe for travel. Owen Willis, pastor of the Nairobi and Kibirichia, Kenya, and Blantyre, Malawi, churches, crosses the border into Uganda to serve the members there.

Though it is a well-watered land, there is no water in Ugandan hotels, except one in Kampala, which has water some of the time.

About 35 attend the Tororo Bible study, which is across the border from Kenya.

The border area is getting more and more tense. That makes it more difficult for Mr. Willis to cross.

Your prayers for the work in East and West Africa would be appreciated. Traveling to Africa was certainly an eye-opening experience for me.

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