

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

It has been a number of years since anything has been mentioned about the PM status system. Quite a few ministers have stopped sending PM status notices because they felt the system was no longer being used. Though it was never officially dropped, it had been allowed to atrophy somewhat.

We would like to rejuvenate the PM system. Please begin sending notices on your PMs if you have not been doing so. We want to make these figures accurate enough so they may again be used for church planning. We realize that the "open door" policy of the past few years has caused some lack of control in the PM area. Even so, we feel you can give us the data that is accurate enough to be useful, though it may not be 100% complete.

A PM Addition form should be sent for an individual according to the following definition--which is also stated on the form: "A PM is an individual who shows sincere personal interest in the Church, and by your judgment, shows good promise of becoming a member in the relatively near future, possibly within six months to one year."

If a PM fails to make adequate progress toward baptism or ceases to attend church regularly, you should send in a PM Deletion form to remove him from the PM status. A disinterested or half-hearted PM needs to be removed as soon as it is clear where he stands.

We want to keep the PM file active and up to date. If it is otherwise, it will be of little use to us.

--Joe Tkach

News From the Spanish Department

The following report about developments in the Spanish area of God's Work comes from Mr. Leon Walker who was appointed head of the Spanish Department by Mr. Armstrong on November 13, 1979.

--Joe Tkach

When most people think of the International section of the Work of God, they tend to visualize the various offices and regions of the Work of God abroad, outside of the United States. It is in this respect that the Spanish Department carries out a unique function.

There are an estimated 21,000,000 or more Spanish-speaking people within the borders of the United States and Puerto Rico (a U.S. possession, almost wholly Spanish-speaking). Most Hispanics in the continental U.S. are concentrated in an area stretching from Texas to California, the Northeastern states (especially New York City) as well as Miami and Chicago.

Because of this rather large Spanish-speaking minority within these borders, the Spanish Department's efforts include a work within the United States

and Puerto Rico as well as in Spain and Latin America. It is in fact, unlike all other international regions, a domestic U.S. work as well as an international one.

The following figures may surprise some as to the extent of our work so far in the Spanish language within the United States (and Puerto Rico) itself:

About 31% of our La Pura Verdad (Spanish P.T.) subscribers and 95% of our newsstand program are within the United States and Puerto Rico. In addition, 25% of our members, 37% of our co-workers and 46% of our donors are in the United States and Puerto Rico. There is one Spanish-language congregation in the United States (Pasadena) and one in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Spanish translations are available on a fairly regular basis in San Diego, Dallas, Miami, Brooklyn-Queens and San Antonio.

With this nucleus and foundation to work from, the Spanish Department is placing newspaper inserts in the top three U.S. Spanish-language newspapers --in Los Angeles, New York and Miami. A total of 170,000 inserts will be placed as follows: 45,000 in El Diario Las Americas (Miami) on January 27; 40,000 in La Opinion (Los Angeles) on February 2; and 85,000 in El Diario La Prensa (New York City) on February 3.

This ad campaign follows the successful lead of the English newspaper inserts which were tested by the U.S. Circulation Department in California and Kentucky last year, and which are currently being used in Detroit, Chicago and Washington, D.C. publications.

We will continue to inform you of the results of this promotion as well as any others undertaken by the Spanish Department.

1979 ENDS WITH A MAIL INCREASE

A bright spot in Mail Processing at this time is the mail count for the year of 1979. As Mr. Herbert Armstrong moves to put all systems of the Work "back on the right track," the total mail count for 1979 is ending the year with an increase over last year.

The amount of increase is not extremely large (1.9%), but this is the first year of increase in the mail since 1973! We view this as a very positive sign for the future. Mr. Armstrong's vigorous, dynamic actions are reaching out and moving our media audiences. Much of the mail that gave us the annual increase came in December as a result of Mr. Armstrong's "semi-annual" letter.

As of December 31, 1979 the mail count for the year stands at 1,881,832, compared with 1,847,652 letters received in 1978.

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

MAIL COMMENTS

Mr. Armstrong's trip to China in December brought a large number of enthusiastic letters from Church members and supporters. Realizing the atheistic standing of China, many were curious about how the Gospel message would be delivered. Hearing the actual recordings of Mr. Armstrong speaking to prominent Chinese educators was eye opening and inspiring to these people.

--Mail Processing Center

Enthusiasm High Over China Trip

We are continually thankful to God for the safety and protection that He gave you on your recent phenomenally successful trip to China. How very grateful we are that God strengthened you and inspired you and gave you such favor in the eyes of the leaders of China. Thank you for the courage to speak boldly and effectively the words of Truth.

--Charles W. Wire (Bakersfield, CA)

I am very pleased to hear that your trip to China has been completed and that it was successful. It is very exciting to see the Gospel being taken throughout the world. It is also very rewarding for me to play a small part in this most important work.

--Mrs. David L. Illig (E. Liverpool, OH)

Mr. Armstrong's visit to China, made possible by the power of God's Holy Spirit, puts us one step closer to the realization of the coming Kingdom.

--Val D. Harmon (Birmingham, AL)

That was a neat way to tell China, an atheistic nation, about the coming Kingdom! The Truth is so simple.

--John & Cathy Allen (Tampa, FL)

Here we are, privy to the inside knowledge of an unprecedented journey of a religious leader into this ancient land. At the invitation of the government of China and [almost] not a word in any news publications outside of the literature this church publishes. What a "scoop" the world's news publications are missing.

--Mrs. Lee Thurston (Hillsboro, TX)

Responses to China Tapes

I was so moved by your speech to China. I have heard it [the Message] all many times before, but hearing it translated into such an unfamiliar language seemed to mean a turning point or "giant step" in the Work. I am not good at expressing myself, and I hope you understand. It gave me "goose bumps."

--Mrs. Homer W. Furr (Tampa, FL)

I was thrilled to hear the taped message of you delivering God's Gospel message about His coming Kingdom to the Red Chinese leadership. Before this year I couldn't imagine that the Gospel being witnessed to Red China would be history before 1979 was out. I'm thanking God for the open door to China and for the inspiration He gave you in delivering His Message, the same Message He sent with Jesus Christ 1900 years ago.

I got chills and tears in my eyes as the significance of God's Message being translated into the Chinese language sank into my mind. With fifty-seven ambassadors of fifty-seven nations there to hear your second message, the world is fast becoming aware of the fact that the Good News of God's coming Kingdom is going to the world as a witness.

Thank you and all that made it possible for us to experience this history-making occasion through the two tape cassettes sent for services.

--Kenneth H. Williams (Pasadena, CA)

What really amazed me was the way it [the Message] was delivered with strength and authority and yet without offending anyone. I know with God all things are possible.

--Mrs. Eileen L. Loftin (Richmond, VA)

It was exciting news to hear of the reception you had in the People's Republic of China; and it's a special moment for me to hear how the Word of Christ was delivered before the leaders of this country, which doesn't believe or know about the great God of Heaven we are serving.

--Oben M. Letsela (Manhattan, KS)

Congratulations on your successful China trip. I was impressed with the way you delivered our message.

--Mike Snipes (Newland, NC)

We had the tape in our Sabbath services and to hear you giving the message to the Chinese was a pleasure. You sounded like you did the first time I heard you speak. I think you did a beautiful job.

--Jerusha Randolph (Trenton, NJ)

We heard the tape last Sabbath (Dec. 15th) of the powerful message of the coming Kingdom of God that you delivered to the nation of China. It was thrilling to realize that I was privileged to actually hear prophecy being fulfilled. Now we can begin praying for your success in Russia after God opens the door for your witness to the land of God and Magog.

--Jerald M. Wendelboe (Des Moines, IA)

Congratulations on your trip to the People's Republic of China. I especially enjoyed the tape with Chinese interpretation interposed. That might sound funny, but hearing the interpretation reminded me of your audience. I tried to place myself in your audience. I wondered what they were thinking as they heard you....

--Monty Lahr (Bemidji, MN)