

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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LOOKING INTO THE NEXT FOUR YEARS
AND NINE YEARS OF DECADE OF EIGHTIES

by

Herbert W. Armstrong

In Manila it is the morning of January 20th. Later today, noon EST, President Ronald Reagan will be sworn into office as President of the United States for the next four years. We have just started the second year of the decade of the eighties. WHAT LIES AHEAD, vital to us in God's Church in the next four to nine years?

Bible prophecy does not pinpoint precise dates--or even the precise year--of forecasted events.

During the late sixties, certain indications led me to envision the possibility--never the certainty--that the Work of the Philadelphia era of the Church might be completed by the first week in January, 1972. Never did I remotely believe that could be the time of Christ's return; the Great Tribulation, the Day of the Lord and other prophesied events had to occur after completion of our Work proclaiming Gospel Message, Law of God, repentance and fact of coming Kingdom of God. Nor did I set 1972 as definite date but only a possible date for completion of our commission. Yet some members totally misconstrued what I did say, and took it to mean definite date settings for end of this world and coming of Christ for the new World Tomorrow...I never did, and do not now set dates--even as to the year.

But there is an important prophecy in the tenth chapter of Revelation. The apostle John is recording what he saw revealed in a vision. An angel came with his hand lifted to heaven saying, "There should be time no longer"--or, better translated, "There shall be no more delay." Then a voice from heaven told John to take and open a very small book in the hand of the angel, and eat it. In his mouth it was sweet as honey, but in his stomach very bitter. Then the voice said to John, God's apostle, "Thou must prophesy (preach or announce) again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, AND KINGS."

Now what is the TIME setting of this prophecy? It is sometime PRIOR to the sounding of the seventh trumpet, at which time Christ shall come. That is clear in verse 7. Also it is followed immediately by the three-and-a-half-year mission of the two witnesses. Their three and a half years BEGIN with the Great Tribulation. So the TIME of this prophecy is just shortly before the Work of the Philadelphia Church is finished. After that shall come the Great Tribulation, and the Day of Lord, when there shall be supernatural disturbances striking the world with astonishing AWE in the sky.

The Laodicean era of the Church shall rise OUT OF, through and in the latter part of the Great Tribulation. They shall be IN it, and turn to God out of and during it (Revelation 7:9-15). They come out of the Great Tribulation and are converted as a result of it, which will open their eyes to the fact that what the Philadelphian Church proclaims was true, although now, while we proclaim it, they are not heeding.

So Revelation 10 shows that when our Work appeared to be close to finished and there should be no more delay in God's intervention, God did hold up world events, and I was commissioned to NOW go with the Kingdom Message to many KINGS, or national leaders, or many nations, speaking different languages. That is what, as I now look back in retrospect, I have been doing since 1970 and especially since 1972. So perhaps our Work would have been completed by 1972, except for this special commission.

Now where are we in the time sequence of prophecies? More and more it becomes apparent that we are right at, or even very shortly past, the event of Revelation 12:7. This is an event in the end time, after the Middle Ages, pictured in verse 6. Verse 7 reveals a fierce battle in heaven. Once again Satan and his demons have swooped up to attack God on His throne--one last satanic try. Michael the archangel--same rank as former Lucifer, now Satan--is pictured with his angels fighting against Satan and his demons. As Lucifer and his angels tried to invade God's throne in heaven before the creation of man, so Satan has made this one last try to conquer GOD.

But Satan again was to lose this battle, and he and his demons were cast back to earth (verse 9). This was to occur just prior to the coming of Christ, the resurrection of saints to salvation and establishing the Kingdom of God on earth (verse 10). But those of God's Church are at this time to overcome Satan by the blood of Christ and the Word of God (verse 11); but because Satan knows he now has but a short time to defeat God on earth through God's Church, even after he failed in the heavenly war with Michael (verse 12), he was immediately to persecute THIS CHURCH (verse 13).

Previously, from the time of my conversion and baptism I have suffered persecution from men, though inspired by Satan--and so have many of you. But never before did Satan strike the CHURCH AS A BODY until the lawsuit launched against the Church January 3, 1979. It surely seems that fulfilled verse 13.

But our Work is not yet completed. This prophecy indicates it will be soon--and apparently during the decade of the eighties, if not during President Reagan's administration--though we cannot set definite dates. Yet WE SHOULD BE WARNED! We should realize our time for completion of Christ's Great Commission is now very short, and growing shorter daily.

The lawsuit apparently is behind us--not definitely certain until June 30. But I have warned you all, Satan is now FURIOUS. He is mighty. He is powerful, next to the power of GOD. He is subtle, clever and can deceive and outwit the best of us. He is HARD AT WORK AGAINST THE WHOLE CHURCH RIGHT NOW in ways you know not. But the Church NEEDS YOUR PRAYERS --even your most urgent, believing and faithful FASTING AND PRAYING!

Continue this prophecy. Next, when our Great Commission is in God's sight completed, we are to be taken--symbolically flown on the two wings of a great eagle--which could mean by a friendly government made friendly

to us by my contacts with heads of so many governments these past 12 years--we shall be taken to a place of protection from the Great Tribulation, which in itself is the furious wrath of a mad and infuriated Satan (verse 14). While we are in this place of safety three and a half years, the two witnesses shall be preaching to the whole world, protected from Satan. But Satan in his mad wrath will then make war with the REMNANT Church. This has to be the Laodicean era of the Church (verse 17).

Finally, what of the Laodicean era of God's Church? Remember, it, too, is GOD's Church--having the commandments of God and Testimony or Word of Jesus (Revelation 12:17).

But that era of the Church is pictured in Matthew 25. Matthew 24 shows the sign Jesus gave prior to His coming to end the present world order, and the Great Tribulation, Day of the Lord and Second Coming.

Matthew 25 shows the time just before Christ shall return. It pictures the Laodicean Church as ten virgins who took their lamps (their Bibles) and went forth to meet Christ at His coming. But five of them--half of the Church--took their lamps (Bibles) but without oil to light the lamps (having the Holy Spirit to enlighten their minds to UNDERSTAND the Bible). Some translations render this into English indicating they were losing the Holy Spirit, because of negligence, lack of prayer, fellowship with the brethren and with God and Christ and being overcome with materialistic and worldly interest. Are some of us like that, even now?

While they--the backsliding half of the Church--were trying to get back closer to God, the coming of Christ shall take place, and the door into God's Kingdom will be SHUT in their faces! WHAT A TERRIBLE AND AWFUL TRAGEDY! It could happen to you or me.

Brethren, we're living in more terrible, troublous times than you realize.

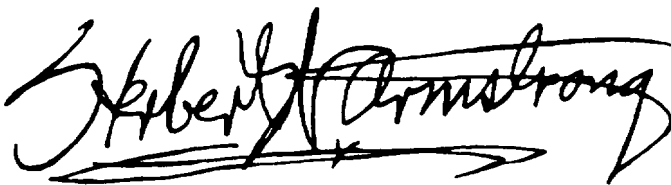
Today, as a new President is inaugurated in Washington, also comes the news that my dear friend, Menachem Begin, Prime Minister of Israel, is being almost thrust out of office--his Government about to fall. There was to be a reelection in Israel in November, when Mr. Begin probably planned to retire anyway, because of serious heart trouble. But he has held his government in power only by the narrowest margin for the past several days, and now he has announced a new election in July instead of November. The last time I saw him, hardly two months ago, we parted with a bear hug. However, whoever is elected next prime minister is in all likelihood the man I also know well, and we still have many friends at and near the top in Israel. But DO NOT FOR A MOMENT GET TO THINKING TIME WILL JUST KEEP GOING ON AND ON. It won't! Satan knows how short time is. He is now striking at destroying THE CHURCH AS A WHOLE. I cannot reveal to you at the moment what Satan is up to now, BUT IT IS BIG, and we all need to be FASTING AND PRAYING as never before that God will restrain Satan.

I spoke to the Church at Honolulu on the way to Tokyo this trip. I talked privately with the Prime Minister, spoke the Gospel Message to a large banquet attended by 482 prestigious and high-ranking people of the nation in Tokyo, and also to a group of a hundred or more Japanese PLAIN TRUTH subscribers on the Sabbath afternoon we were there.

I have continued writing the full-page announcements for the WALL STREET JOURNAL while on the trip. Arriving in Manila, I was interviewed at a press conference at the airport on arrival. President Marcos has placed at my disposal a siren pilot car to go before my car wherever I go here, with motorcycle police also with sirens going along--sometimes ahead of us, sometimes beside my car. We go through heavy traffic rapidly. Sabbath I spoke to more than 1,000 of our members here. Yesterday morning I spoke for some 30 to 40 minutes to the student body and faculty of the Adamson University in a special convoked assembly held for me. Tonight I am to be principal speaker at a huge banquet of 750 of the Philippines' most distinguished citizens and several ambassadors from other countries. There are other luncheon club speeches, press meetings and television interviews scheduled. This Saturday night will be the first night of the BIG CAMPAIGN here. Meetings are planned with President Marcos, the First Lady his wife, and a dinner with the entire cabinet of the government. God is using me. BUT TIME IS NOW VERY SHORT.

This Work is launched on the GREATEST AND MOST POWERFUL THRUST FORWARD IN ITS 47 YEARS. NEVER have I and the whole Work needed your prayers and continued EXTRA financial backing as now. When home I am recording two TV programs a week and also two radio half hours. Our TV crew is here, and the meetings here will be telecast over the U.S. We are launched on the greatest PUSH FORWARD ever. PRAY! PRAY! PRAY!

With deep love, in Jesus' name,



FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Adult Basketball

Many U.S. churches have men's basketball teams playing neighboring churches. This has resulted in questions about health hazards and the need for standardized rules of play. We must remember that basketball is a very strenuous sport. Men who are not in top condition face real danger when they overextend themselves by playing in two or three games in one day. Even one game of college-style basketball can be too demanding for the average adult player. In fact, we have had some near misses already this season. Also, we in Pasadena vividly remember an untimely death on the softball field this past summer.

None of us would want to see or experience a tragedy such as a heart attack on the court, especially if it resulted even partially from carelessness on our part. After discussions with Jim Petty, Harry Sneider and others, we are recommending the following guidelines for adult basketball:

1. Encourage all men to get a physical exam before playing. Those not in shape should be cautioned.
2. College rules may be used except for time: the game should be divided into eight-minute quarters.

(Continued on page 6)

A Voice Cries Out: What's Right about the World Tomorrow?

Three world views for tomorrow:
Only one will become reality!

Appeared in the Wall Street Journal, Jan. 19, 1981

TODAY, chaos, tomorrow, the world *erupts* into PEACE! Today, threat of human extinction. Tomorrow, UTOPIA grips the earth!

You don't have to believe it! It's as certain as the rising of tomorrow's sun!

Humanity won't bring it about! It is going to be done to us! People are going to be *compelled* to enjoy PEACE worldwide, to be happy, to experience universal ABUNDANCE! Utopia? Why not! Why should it be an imaginary or impossible pipe dream? Think about that! There's a CAUSE for today's apparently insolvable problems and unstoppable evils. It's a way of life—the way I simplify by the one word "GET."

What do world leaders expect? The two most widely held are divergent views. Paradoxically they point in opposite directions.

Many world leaders now expect—though they immediately put the thought out of mind—that nuclear and other means of mass destruction eventually—perhaps soon—will erase mankind from the face of the earth!

At least four other causes, beside nuclear annihilation, now for the first time in history make possible human extinction—and by the hand of MAN! Some point out that man has never yet invented a new means of greater mass destruction that has not been actually used!

Yet we all try to simply put that awesome possibility out of mind! Do we suppose that just not thinking about it,



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and doing nothing about it, will automatically cause the threat to go away?

But a well-known philosopher and author, Aldous Huxley, said, "Most prophecy tends to oscillate between an extreme of gloom and the wildest optimism." Another set of seers thinks the world is destined soon to become a gigantic sort of fantasy land. The human race will find perpetual happiness playing with an endless assortment of ever more ingenious mechanical toys produced by science, technology and industry.

But these optimistic, glamorous predictions seem totally to exclude the stark reality that human happiness and well-being is a *spiritual*, not a physical or materialistic, condition. The near future glamorous predictions overlook the additional snarls and problems their own predictions would bring! The overcrowded, snarled, enervating cosmopolitan life of this optimistic view is rather frightening!

But when we take a hard, cold, realistic view of conditions and trends, they point inevitably to a fast approaching WORLD CRISIS of combined nuclear war, starvation, uncontrollable disease

epidemics, continued escalating crime, violence, the population explosion—and human extinction!

Yet NONE OF THESE IS GOING TO HAPPEN!

It is not fantasy or superstition but reality and FACT that before man annihilates mankind, that supreme-powered unseen "Strong Hand from Someplace" is going to intervene in this world's affairs.

Some world-known scientists have said our only hope, now, is for a super government ruling over all nations—with only its one military force. Man can't bring this about! But that "Unseen Power" CAN!—and before we destroy ourselves *WILL!* All our insolvable problems and evils are being CAUSED by a way of life I simplify by the word "GET." Mankind will be turned to the way of "GIVE"—outflowing LOVE toward God and man!

There shall, in actual fact, be a one-world GOVERNMENT. Human civilization won't bring it about. It will be done to us! Whether one believes it, doesn't matter. It's as certain as the rising of tomorrow's sun.

After we pass the supreme world crisis just ahead, there shall dawn the WONDERFUL WORLD TOMORROW! World PEACE, happiness, universal ABUNDANCE shall at last grip this earth. Utopia! Well, WHY NOT! It is our SURE HOPE!

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
Founder
Ambassador Foundation

We have nothing to sell. But on request you may receive, gratis, a 96-page eye-opening booklet, *The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What It Will Be Like*. Herbert W. Armstrong, Pasadena, Calif., 91123. Phone toll free (800) 423-4444. In California call collect (213) 577-5225.

3. A team should not play more than two games in one day.
4. Other modifications may be made by mutual agreement of the coaches. For example, Ambassador College no longer uses the "jump ball" at all.

We hope you continue to use these games as opportunities for recreation and fellowship. But let's take every precaution to avoid unnecessary tragedy.

International News

Update From London Our British office in Radlett, England has released the following interesting summary of their activities for all of 1980:

Promotion Activity Used Throughout the Year

Advertising Ads for the PT appeared in two million Continental newspapers and magazines, seven million Scandinavian newspapers, and 59 million U.K. and Eire newspapers. This produced a total of 52,000 requests for The PLAIN TRUTH at an average cost per response of under £1.50.

Over 67,000 pieces of mail advertising The PLAIN TRUTH were mailed during 1980 to extremely high calibre English-speaking people (company directors, university professors, etc.) on the continent of Europe and in the Middle East. This produced over 11,500 requests for the magazine, or an overall 17.1% response.

Exhibitions The PLAIN TRUTH was presented to the public using display boards and dispensers at 24 exhibition sites throughout the U.K. Together with promotions done in the surrounding districts, this programme distributed 800,000 leaflets and 100,000 sample copies of The PLAIN TRUTH.

Income

Income has been holding up well throughout the year. December itself had a 28% increase over the same period last year, giving a final year-to-date figure of +30%.

Mail and PT Subscriptions

1980 has been a year of exceptional growth in all files served by the Radlett Office, with the one exception of East and West Africa, where there was no specific promotion designed for the area. Over 200,000 pieces of mail were received by the office in 1980. The following percentages for mail show the increases for 1980 over 1979, and the percentages for the PT show the changes for December of 1980 over the same month of 1979:

	<u>PLAIN TRUTH</u>	<u>MAIL</u>
U.K. & Eire	+86%	+44%
Scandinavia	+156%	+112%
Continent	+73%	+124%
Mideast	+169%	+341%
Africa	-9%	

(Continued on page 8)

A Voice Cries Out: An Open Letter to President Reagan

A Heartfelt Message of Encouragement

Appeared in the Wall Street Journal, Jan. 20, 1981

MR. PRESIDENT: You've assumed the most important office in the world on a landslide vote—a virtual mandate.

I know something of the stupendous problems with which you now must grapple. I have discussed world and national difficulties with heads of state on all continents. I know something of how difficult, knotty and often impossible of human solution are the conditions you now face—greater than those confronting any other head of state.

In late December the question blared forth in the media whether, on inauguration, you should declare an economic emergency. But, as you know, we are now deep in much more than an economic emergency. We're in a social emergency, a moral and spiritual emergency, foreign and international emergencies and the frightening LIFE-AND-DEATH emergency of human extinction. Never before since mankind inhabited the earth have weapons of mass destruction existed that can erase humanity from this planet. You have taken over the helm at a time when problems and troubles exceed in difficulty and complexity those faced by any President before you.

If ever a President needed the help of this great people he leads, it is now. Some are asking, can you turn the United States around? They look to problems of inflation, unemployment, energy, taxes, budget, business, defense. But those are materialistic problems. In the materialistic area we have fared better than we realize. This nation has



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led the world in materialistic advancement. In fields of science and technology, business and industry, knowledge production (our educational system has become almost wholly materialistic), our progress has been awesome. We have sent men to the moon and safely returned them. We've sent unmanned spacecraft to send back mind-boggling close-up photographs of Jupiter, Saturn and the Martian surface. We've produced computers and the most marvelous instruments.

But we can't seem to solve troubles between husbands and wives, parents and children, groups and factions, nation and nation. Our nation is in trouble. The whole world is in trouble! And those troubles and evils, however we may characterize them, are spiritual in nature. In every case, it seems, the individual, the group, the faction, the nation, is seeking only self-interest. *It's all in the way we live!*

I've said repeatedly in these page messages there is an unseen spiritual law in relentless motion—the law I simplify for the term "GIVE." It's as inexorable as the law of gravity. Break it, and it breaks you! This nation has been breaking that law, and our beloved country is being broken by it! That law is a WAY OF LIFE—that of cooperating, helping, serving, sharing—of outflowing LOVE! But our people, and the whole world, are living the diametric opposite way transgressing that invisible spiri-

tual law—the way I term "GET." We've been actuated by self-centeredness, vanity, covetousness, envy, competition, hostility, violence, war.

The other day I had a personal meeting with Prime Minister Zenko Suzuki of Japan, in Tokyo. He recently called on the Japanese people to continue working hard, and to remain united to protect the peace and the democracy of Japan. Loyalty to country and faithful hard work on the job are spiritual values that are paying off in Japan.

It is vital that our beloved country remain loyal AND UNITED! Not divided in the home, in the factory, in the office. It took a war for Franklin D. Roosevelt to unite us in one common accord. We need desperately now to be united in PEACE—in what we can do for our country, not what it can do for us!

You, Mr. President, cannot of yourself solve this nation's problems and rid it of its evils. That can be done only if WE, THE PEOPLE, STAND BEHIND YOU not only, but CHANGE OUR WAY OF LIFE FROM "GET" to "GIVE."

During the campaign you mentioned that we are a nation founded under God. God is LOVE manifested! He set in relentless motion the spiritual LAW that will CAUSE peace, happiness, abundant well-being for all—if we, the people, will turn to it! THAT'S HOW THIS COUNTRY NEEDS TO BE TURNED AROUND. Lead us in that way, Mr. Reagan, and God help us to follow you in it. I, with countless others, shall be praying for you in that.

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
Pastor General
Worldwide Church of God

South African News Five ministers and their wives have already attended the Ministerial Refreshing Program in Pasadena and returned to South Africa. They all found the program very, very profitable with one main theme: to instruct and equip the ministry worldwide to all speak the same thing. Four remaining ministers with their wives will attend during 1981.

We received a film copy of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong's sermon to the members at the Tucson Festival site on the Last Great Day 1980. Three churches have thus far seen the film and what an impact it has made on the members! Seeing and hearing Mr. Armstrong speak so powerfully and purposefully certainly inspired everyone. We are very thankful that we can, from time to time, have Mr. Armstrong on film.

Budget: God has blessed His Work in South Africa. Income year-to-date in our operating account is 24.4% more than at the end of November 1979.

PT Circulation: We are now printing 120,000 PLAIN TRUTH magazines. That figure breaks down as follows:

South African mailing list.....	65,000
South African newsstands.....	40,000
Zimbabwean mailing list.....	15,000
Zimbabwean newsstands.....	1,000

Even though paper costs, labour costs and postage have gone up--even by as much as 33%--we can maintain the present print run and even add new subscribers. We have an ongoing renewal system, so the file is very active.

Analysis of Financial Contributions: Recently we analysed our income and found 76% of the income is from members, 19% from co-workers and 5% from donors.

Visit with Minister of Posts and Telecommunications: On 20th November five of us (including Mr. Gerald Waterhouse) visited with the Hon. H. H. Smit, a Cabinet Minister. We showed him the Young Ambassadors film. He watched intently and commented favourably. I presented him with a copy of the 1980 Envoy. He stood looking at a photograph of Mr. Herbert Armstrong and said: "A remarkable man!" I presented Mr. Smit with a bottle of California red wine which Dr. Hoeh had requested I deliver to him. Dr. Hoeh had met him on a previous trip when Mr. Smit was Minister of Coloured Affairs.

Appreciation for Ministerial Refreshing Program

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Thank you for our opportunity to attend the Ministerial Refreshing Program. The instruction we received was invaluable. I came home with three filled notebooks and writer's cramp! But I enjoyed every minute of it.

My wife and I are inspired with a renewed sense of dedication to you and God's Work. We are behind you and the staff you have appointed to assist you all the way. We pray for you continually and look forward to God's Kingdom.

Dan and Christine Orban

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

My wife and I returned about three weeks ago from the sixth session of the Refreshing Program. With this letter, we would like to pass on our thanks to you and the staff at Pasadena for the foresight, wisdom, and work on the part of all concerned in providing such an excellent program for those of us in the field ministry. It was a tremendous opportunity to "recharge the batteries" with the truth God has put into His Church through you, which we can then use in serving the brethren.

One very enjoyable fringe benefit of the program was the opportunity to stay on campus and see firsthand the fruit being borne in the College again. Please extend our appreciation to Mr. Raymond McNair and the rest of the faculty and administration for the excellent job they are doing in carrying out your directives in what is once again God's College.

Again, our thanks for such a profitable program.

Doug and Janel Johnson

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

My wife and I were able to attend the sixth session of the Ministerial Refreshing Program. After a wonderfully stimulating three weeks, we were able to return to our local church area refreshed and recharged. Thank you and the dedicated staff you have in Pasadena for giving the ministry such a beneficial program.

Church members have commented that they can already see the inspiring effect through sermons, Bible studies, and in counselings.

When members have asked me what the three weeks in Pasadena were like, I have felt the best description is to say that it was a complete experience. The heart of the program of course is eight hours a day of solid instruction on doctrines, policies, and administrations of the Worldwide Church of God. However, combined with that is the unique setting of Ambassador College with all its special beauty (which brought back fond memories of four of the most profound years of my life as an Ambassador College student), the fellowship with faculty members and ministers, and attending concerts in the magnificent Ambassador Auditorium.

Mr. Armstrong, we sincerely appreciate your vision and your understanding of God's standards and values and making it possible for the rest of us to recapture them. To borrow a phrase from a popular commercial, "Thanks, I needed that!"

David and Sandy Orban

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Greetings from Malaysia. My wife and I would like to express our deep appreciation and thanks for the privilege of attending the sixth Ministerial Refreshing Program. We had so much to learn from you and other instructors appointed by Mr. Armstrong. The knowledge we received will be put into greater use in fostering unity and harmony in the Church.

It was good to experience the refreshing atmosphere of friendliness amongst fellow ministers and wives, the College students, and members of the Pasadena congregation. It is evident that God is restoring His blessings upon His Church as we seek to please Him and back up His chosen Apostle in fulfilling the greatest Work on earth. We count ourselves very privileged to be called to feed the flock and complete the Work God has entrusted us to do.

Finally, we wish you good health and greater success in all your dedicated services to God, Mr. Armstrong and the Church.

Yong Chin Gee and Yuet Siam

Mr. Tkach:

I feel like a Blatz Beer commercial!

I didn't believe it! The Refreshing Program could not be that inspiring and helpful as the Pastor General's Report comments suggested. Could it be that unifying?

Well, I'm a believer now! We have gleaned more in the first three days than all other conferences combined! The best part of the 1978 conference was going out to dinner.

The best part of the Refreshing Program has been the spiritual food. The spiritual diet has been helpful, inspiring, motivating, encouraging, balanced, wise and unifying.

Please thank all those involved for helping us to grow and to better serve the people of God.

Chuck Calahan

Weekly Letter Comments

Our first group of letters shows that Mr. Armstrong's December member/co-worker letter brought excitement over the growth of the Work and the plans for 1981. It also inspired brethren to strive yet harder in backing God's apostle. In the next group, members express complete support of Mr. Armstrong as he continues to take the gospel message overseas. They continue to pray for his health, guidance and protection. Finally, brethren express appreciation for God's calling and realize what a blessing and privilege it is to have a part in His Work.

December Letter Inspired Brethren

Thank you very much for your December 19 letter. It is very encouraging to hear what you are planning, what is on your mind, and to know the direction God is leading you. Thank you very much for letting us know and reminding us of our part in this Work. We will try to do better than before in supporting you in all aspects. We hope you have a tremendously successful trip and are behind you 100%. We love you very much.

Rejean and Joan Vautour (Pasadena, CA)

Your latest member/co-worker letter of December 19 so moved and inspired me that I just had to write and tell you. I pray that

this accelerated push will envelop the whole earth, at last, with God's end-time message and that He will give you (Mr. Armstrong) the correct words for each in the listening audiences.

Though I cannot do all that much materially towards it, I can pray fervently that God will bless His people with the means, increased membership and added co-workers to help financially. May God continue to strengthen you and reveal more new knowledge of His hidden mysteries to you for His end-time Church to grow by.

Virginia Arnold (Enid, OK)

Thank you for your member/co-worker letter of December 19, 1980. I was inspired by reading it as it showed me your plans for the upcoming trip to Japan, the Philippines and other points abroad. Thank you Mr. Armstrong for the example and encouragement you afforded in showing what we all can do as God's called and commissioned to get the gospel out to the world! My prayers are with you throughout--for your health, strength, inspiration and counselings; and even for your advisors so that you get to know what you need to know when you need it.

Stephen Kopy (Anchorage, AK)

Thank you for your most recent letter! I greatly appreciate knowing about the growth God has granted His Church. This makes my prayers so much more real. It makes me want to give all I can to His GREAT WORK.

Even though this old world (age) is spinning to its end, and the economy is a shambles, the Worldwide Church of God Almighty is one organization that will not suffer the squeeze of the dollar. You have my constant prayers and support, Mr. Armstrong. I wish you the best of health in your 89th year. May God be with you.

Jeffrey Cushman (Thomastown, ME)

I just read the very exciting letter to brethren and co-workers of December 19. It would seem that the Work is now bigger, better and stronger than ever! I pray that you will have even more strength to keep us on God's track--growing and not stagnating. There is no time to waste, and hopefully the Work will take off like a rocket!

Mrs. Mary Anthony (Cleveland, OH)

Support for Mr. Armstrong's Latest Trip

I was glad to hear that you are going on another tour to Asia and deliver the "good news" directly in the Philippines. I am praying for Mr. Rader's success in laying the foundation for your campaign when you get there.

William Bush (Tampa, FL)

I hope you are in good health and have a safe and successful trip to Tokyo and the Philippines. I also hope you make it to Australia. I pray the Father in Heaven to be very close to you for it sounds like a rather strenuous trip. My prayers are very earnest and sincere, for I realize you have much to accomplish on this great

mission. My prayers are for Mr. Rader also. I am glad God gave you a good helper. So have a safe and fulfilling journey.

Mrs. Gerald Shireman (Richland Ctr., WI)

I thank God for giving you (Mr. Armstrong) back your health, strength and power. I pray that He will continue to strengthen, guide and protect you as you begin another trip overseas in January.

Mrs. Louis Kaposy (Avella, PA)

We hope and pray that your trip beginning in January will be a great success and that it will be the start of a "full speed ahead" time. We are behind you 100% and will try our best to stay up with you, knowing full well we can't.

Mr. & Mrs. Carlos Lopez (Houston, TX)

May your latest trip abroad, Mr. Armstrong, be a huge success in proclaiming God's gospel to world leaders. And may God give you the continued and increased wisdom to say the right words to these leaders. My prayers for your protection and the protection of your entire team go with you all.

George W. Faulkner (W. Palm Beach, FL)

We are very happy that you and your group are overseas fulfilling God's Commission of getting the Gospel to all nations. We do pray for you (Mr. Armstrong) that you may enjoy the best of health while in these foreign lands, and that our God will fill you with much wisdom and a double amount of His Holy Spirit, to guide you and comfort you in this Work. We know God is with you and will bless you.

Bruce B. Douglass (Clatskanie, OR)

Members Highly Value Their Calling

I am enclosing my first tithe. I know that God will guide you in furthering His great Commission that we are so blessed to be a part of. Truly, tithing is a great blessing because we are made junior partners with God in giving His end-time witness to this wretched world and preparing the way for God to establish his wonderful World Tomorrow. Then all mankind will come to know, respect and love Almighty God our Father and His Son, Jesus Christ. There is nothing that can really equal God's calling to be a part of His Work--His firstfruits. It is a great privilege!

Graeme Ogilvie (Beaverton, OR)

I wish to let you know that I am very happy and grateful that God has put me in His Church. I feel very blessed. I didn't realize how happy all the people in God's Church could be. We seem able to cope with difficulties in a saner way and not let these serious matters affect us in the same way it affects most people. I am very glad that I have something to work for--the World Tomorrow.

Mrs. Louise Kniffen (Mesa, AZ)

I love this Work that God has called me to be a part of. I know that this is the true Church of God. My life is so different now--I al-

ways have peace of mind. Even though sometimes we have trials, I know that with God's Holy Spirit and keeping His commandments, we can overcome.

Thank you, Mr. Armstrong, for your prayers--you don't know me personally, but I know you have a place in your heart for each one of the brethren.

Mr. & Mrs. Isaiah Keitt (Columbia, SC)

What a miraculous privilege it is to be a member of God's Church! It is more than I can express in words, but I do thank God the Father each day for His goodness in calling me to repentance. The way He answers my prayers would be incredible if I did not know of His promises and the fact that He will not lie. If you read between these lines, I hope you will see gratitude, and also love. I am so grateful for you, Mr. Armstrong, and Mr. Rader as well as the whole ministry.

Mrs. Marris Owings Jr. (Childersburg, AL)

Being on my own now as a student at a local university, I have found that I need God more than ever before. I find myself praying more each day and thinking about how this society is so wrapped up in "doing their own thing." Each week I look forward to going to church services because it is a great escape from the foul language and foul minds on campus.

I believe with all my heart that you, Mr. Armstrong, are God's chosen apostle. No other man has done as much as you have in preparing God's Church and getting it ready for its big wedding day. I thank God for allowing me to be in His Church, and enabling me to know about the future. I understand that everyone is not being judged now and that their time will come. If only the people in the false churches knew this.

God's work is moving full speed ahead and nothing on this planet can or will get in its way!

Carla Denise Harrison (Chesapeake, VA)

--JOE TRACH, MINISTERIAL SERVICES

ON THE WORLD SCENE

"SQUALID" DEAL SETS FREE AMERICA'S PRISONERS "It's over: the great Satan bows to all our conditions." So trumpeted Tehran's Kayhan newspaper following the announcement of a U.S.-Iranian agreement to end the 14-month-old hostage crisis.

"Down With America, Down With Reagan," shouted Iran's revolutionary guards--in English--as the two Algerian jets carrying the 52 American hostages prepared to depart Tehran airport for freedom.

Thus, Iranian authorities kept up the vitriol to the very end. But with January 20 looming, they felt they had to get whatever they could out of the Carter administration. They had no desire to deal with a man who bluntly called them what they really are--barbarians--and who publicly called the 52 unfortunate Americans what they really were--"prisoners of war."

"Squalid Negotiations"

We might not know for some time, perhaps, the real price paid for the return of the hostages. (Some observers, paraphrasing Winston Churchill, chortled: "Never have so many paid so much for so few.")

The outgoing Carter administration was adamant in insisting that not a cent of taxpayer's money would be involved in the initial \$8 billion (out of a possible total of \$11.2 billion) transfer; that all that was being returned was Iran's assets which had been frozen shortly after the U.S. embassy was stormed; that Iran would have to earmark \$5 billion to pay off bank loans and future litigations.

This is probably not the whole story. The hostages, for example, will not be able to sue Iran for damages as a result of their 14-month-long ordeal. Any such suits would instead be covered by the U.S. Treasury.

The New Republic magazine bluntly called the negotiations "squalid" and said they had been "conducted as if the Iranians were the aggrieved party." Added TNR, in its lead editorial of January 3-10, 1981 entitled "Not One Cent for Tribute":

"Ronald Reagan has said, in an off-hand and casual way, about the captivity of Americans in Tehran what Jimmy Carter should have said, as a deliberate and calculated statement of U.S. policy, 14 months ago: We will not pay ransom to secure their release. Carter might then have added that, unless the hostages were released and released quickly, the cost to Iran would be unpredictable and incalculable." This the Iranians understood.

"The mullahs took Jimmy Carter's measure early on and they took it accurately. When they play cards, they look not at the cards but at the faces of their opponents. They looked at Jimmy Carter and he showed them the unmistakable face of servility. His face told them that they'd run no risk and incur no cost....

"President Carter's words told them, too, quite specifically, that we would abjure a use of force. And when, months later, he resorted not to punitive but simply to minimal force aimed at extricating our hostages, he did so half-heartedly, timidly, as if to doom the act in advance, which it did."

The Reagan administration is now studying closely the terms, especially yet unfulfilled aspects of the massive money, gold, and securities swap arrangement engineered by the Carter administration (including 1,632,000,000 ounces, or 51 tons, of gold, worth \$940 million). The agreement also turns over American claims against the revolutionary government to an international claims tribunal (where can the U.S. get justice in this world?).

The Wall Street Journal, in a January 21 editorial, said the agreement "has the same moral standing as an agreement made with a kidnapper, that is to say none at all." The editorial advised President Reagan to examine it carefully and said that "if its unfulfilled parts do not, on balance, benefit American interests, there should be no hesitation in renouncing it."

So there still may be some fireworks yet to come.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau