

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



VOL.3, NO.14

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

APRIL 3, 1981

MR. ARMSTRONG BACK IN PASADENA

by

Herbert W. Armstrong

GREETINGS TO YOU MINISTERS AND YOUR WIVES FROM PASADENA, ONCE AGAIN:

I have spent very little time the past six years in Pasadena--and none for two years and three months--until last week when I returned for a brief visit. Five and six years ago I was away from Pasadena, carrying the Gospel around the world for approximately 300 out of each 365 days. In 1977 I had moved to Tucson, and in August of that year experienced total heart failure. For six months or more I was pretty much bedridden on a hospital bed--although in my own home. I refused to enter a hospital.

Let me say that reentering the office here--as well as the home--was like a new, glorified vision from God--an inspiring, refreshing experience. HOW GRACIOUS God has been to have built here the most beautiful, cultural, high character atmosphere for the HEADQUARTERS of His Church, His College, and His Work!

Being here has made me realize this is where I BELONG! This is the nerve center of God's Work.

That very important END-TIME Work may be more nearly finished than we realize. God's overall PURPOSE is far from finished. Indeed, when Jesus said, on the cross just as He was dying, "It is finished," He was referring to THE WORK God had given HIM in the human flesh to do. That phase of God's overall PURPOSE and Work was then finished. The apostles then went out, beginning the proclaiming of the GOOD NEWS of the KINGDOM OF GOD to the world. In just over 21 years, the suppression of that Gospel had set in. Thereafter false preachers proclaimed that Jesus was the Divine Messenger--the CHRIST--but not HIS MESSAGE--His GOSPEL! The world was DECEIVED!

In 1927--precisely 100 time cycles after Jesus began teaching His first apostles, He had converted, and began teaching His apostle to carry that same Gospel Message TO THE WORLD for the first time in 100 time cycles. In 1931--precisely to the month, 100 time cycles after the first apostles were ordained and started on proclaiming that Gospel, Christ ordained and started his apostle for this time proclaiming that same Gospel. In 1934 that Gospel of the Kingdom began going out over the air. Precisely one time cycle later, to the very week, first week in 1953, after one time cycle in which the Gospel had gone Coast-to-Coast in the U.S.A. it started going out on the most powerful radio station

on earth--Radio Luxembourg in Europe. And that was precisely 100 time cycles from the time Paul wrote (Gal. 1:6-7) of its suppression!

God's TIMING is perfect. When the first real persecution against the entire Church struck, January 3, 1979, God had already providentially moved me to Tucson, Arizona. The State shut off our mail privilege at the Pasadena Post Office. We immediately began operating outside this state, and from Tucson.

The fact God seems to have now inspired me to make this trip back to Pasadena (although my home and residence are still Tucson), indicates another possible crucial date.

Right now the situation is TENSE in Poland. It is reported the Soviet forces are poised ready to strike in Poland. And April is the best month in the year for a Soviet military invasion in massive form. The Poles are tensely alerted. They might move even faster than the slower-moving Russian Bear. They might, under the Polish Pope, start the long-prophesied revival of the medieval "Holy Roman Empire." For some time now, I have foreseen the possibility of this revived "Beast" power being almost half from Russian satellite nations, such as Poland, Romania, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary--instead of the Israelitish northern European nations such as Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Holland, Belgium. They were not in the old Roman Empire--but these Balkan nations were!

The disturbance and crisis in Poland might start several of those nations becoming Fascist, into the lightning-quick Fascist, German-led United Europe!

I am beginning again a more in-depth study of the Scriptures on the flight of the Church into her place of safety, as foretold in Revelation 12 and many other Scriptures.

Meanwhile, with the Church basically back on the track doctrinally, WE NEED TO BE CALLING TIMES OF INTENSE FASTING AND PRAYER TO GET OURSELVES CLOSER TO GOD, MORE FILLED WITH HIS HOLY SPIRIT--FARTHER FROM THE WAYS AND PLEASURES AND INTERESTS OF THIS WORLD!

We need to be "UP" for what's soon coming! HOW MUCH, AND HOW FERVENTLY ARE YOU PRAYING? Right now the ministry, and the whole Church, are closer together and to Christ than ever before--but this is the very time Satan will try to strike his hardest blow. PRAYER, and closeness to GOD and to CHRIST is our only protection and way of deliverance!

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RESTATEMENT OF POLICY

RE: PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

by Herbert W. Armstrong

The Pastor General's Report is intended as precisely what it is named--a confidential and private report from the Pastor General of the Worldwide Church of God to the ordained ministry of the Church. It is my vehicle to communicate privately and in confidence with you ministers who, under me and Jesus Christ the living HEAD of this Church, are pastoring and feeding the flock whom God Himself has added to His Church.

In no sense is this Report from week to week for public distribution. We publish The PLAIN TRUTH for that purpose. Even the GOOD NEWS and the WORLDWIDE NEWS are restricted publications for communication and instruction to our members.

As always, however, certain things may appear in the Report, such as inspiring and encouraging news of the Work, my contact with various churches or my public addresses, letters from ministers having attended the Refresher Program, or such non-confidential material may be shared with your local congregations.

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NEWS FLASH ON TV AND FEBRUARY
LETTER RESPONSE

by Herbert W. Armstrong

The following has just come in from the Mail Processing Center--
by Richard Rice:

1. Response to Telecast

Your new programs are continuing to have a tremendous effect on your viewing audience. This past Sunday morning, March 29, we received 500 calls from KTTV in Los Angeles. This was a 37% increase over the previous weekend response and 10 times higher than last year's average weekly response!

500 calls were also received from the WGN telecast in Chicago this past Sabbath, which was an 18% increase over the previous weekend.

2. New Money Record From February's Member/Co-Worker Letter

We are also happy to report that your February letter produced a new all-time record in contributions for a Member/Co-worker Letter.

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FROM TREASURER'S OFFICE

Contributions compared to 1980:

Month to date..... +22.0%
Year to date..... +17.6%

The increase is INCREASING!

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NO "INACTIVE MEMBERSHIPS"

by

Herbert W. Armstrong

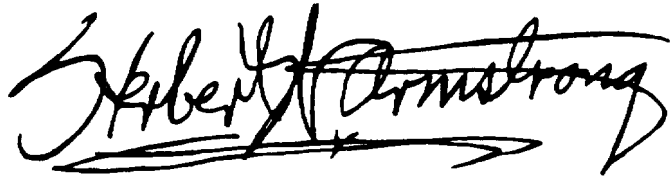
Some have been supposed to be considered in the NON-Scriptural category of "inactive members." There is no such status given us in the Word of God. The assumption of such status has never been official, nor authorized by me or the Word of God.

Therefore I announce officially that no such status exists, and any such unauthorized status is hereby discontinued.

The Bible plainly reveals that those who "ARE CHRIST'S" are members in the Church. But WHO are Christ's? NOT those baptized in water. But, "by ONE SPIRIT [the HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD] are we all baptized [inducted into] one body" (I Cor. 12:13). And, "Ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, IF so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, HE IS NONE OF HIS" (Rom. 8:9)--and "there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care (love) one for another." (I Cor. 12:25).

Either a member has and is led by the Spirit of God, and therefore is CHRIST'S and a member of His spiritual Body, the Church, or else that person IS NOT a member.

Therefore the so-called status of "Inactive Member" is ABOLISHED, and all so listed are simply not members.



DISFELLOWSHIPMENTS

The following have been disfellowshipped for cause: Joseph Katora, John Kineston. This does not need to be announced.

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Change in Y.O.U. Holy Day Offering Envelopes (****PLEASE ANNOUNCE****)

Special holy day offering envelopes for the Days of Unleavened Bread and for Pentecost have been mailed to all member heads of household and to all youths who donated last year.

This year, everyone will use the same yellow envelopes. The green envelopes previously designated for Y.O.U. members and younger children have been discontinued. However, the use of the funds remains the same.

All donations from the youth are combined with the offering from the adults and placed in the Tithe/Offering operating account for general

(Continued on Page 6)

A Voice Cries Out: On Forecasting the Economy

Can you predict the state of the nation's economy?

Appeared in the Wall Street Journal March 30, 1981

THE FLASH depression of 1920 was the sharp thunderclap prelude before the cloudburst Depression starting 1929.

A number of my corporate customers in the farm implement industry went into receivership. Business activity was at a satisfactory level in 1919. At a noon luncheon of the Chicago Association of Commerce that year a leading economist was our guest speaker. Rather startlingly, he predicted the most serious depression within the generation inside a year.

In 1920 this same economist again was our guest speaker at luncheon in the Cameo Room of the Morrison Hotel.

"Gentlemen," he said, "a year ago in this room I predicted that within a year we would be in the throes of the most serious depression of our generation. Most of you were not in agreement. That year has rolled around, I am here again and the depression is here with me."

He explained his forecast. "It's now winter. If I want to know the temperature in this room now, I look at the thermometer on the wall. But if I want to know what the temperature will be an hour from now, I look to what's going on down in the boiler room. I look to the factor that will determine the future temperature. A year ago I did not predict according to indexes of business activity, bank clearings, stockcar loadings or stock market quotations. They were the thermometers on the wall. Even graphs and charts of those things for the past year do not determine a continuous trend."

The Boston statistician then explained his contention that the



HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

future economy depends not on past records, but on the factor that *determines* conditions—the way people are dealing with one another. He expressed the source that determines conditions in terms of righteousness. "When 51 percent or more are righteous in their dealings with one another, good times are ahead. When 51 percent or more have become unrighteous in their human contacts, we are headed for economic trouble."

Whether or not this man's theory found approval in the business world, it does determine the nation's general well-being. And this nation, with the whole world, is definitely NOT in a state of happy and prosperous well-being! We are beset with seemingly insolvable problems, troubles and evils beyond the grasp of human mentality!

Repeatedly I have said there is a CAUSE for every effect. The CAUSE of the evils that beset us is the "GET" way of life—the motivation of self-centeredness—the way of "I love ME—not you!" Our positively AWESOME progress and achievements are all materialistic in nature. Our evils, before which we seem to stand helpless, are spiritual in nature. There is a SPIRITUAL LAW that says when we

are all selfishly taking *from* one another, we all have less. But when we all produce, and help others produce in cooperation instead of hostile competition, we all have more.

Besides the incentive of "GET" materially, we seem to want to find amusement and be entertained. All television basically is entertainment and is leading minds into the downward drift in areas of morality, ethics and ways of peace. We crave the excitement of modern sports, with the ecstasy of winning, but the AGONY of defeat. It seems for some to be joyous others must suffer agony.

We are breaking the overall spiritual Law of outflowing LOVE—of "thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

Our competitive materialistic progress has for the first time in human history produced the weapons of mass destruction that can blast all humanity out of existence. Our No. 1 problem now is human survival. We are in a world crisis escalating at fast-increasing momentum toward the ZERO HOUR of human extinction! And we're not repenting of our folly.

Just before the hand of man utterly destroys mankind, that invisible supreme "Strong Hand from Someplace" is going to intervene and save us from ourselves! Mankind will be *compelled* to live the way that will bring world peace, happiness, universal well-being and eternal salvation. A wonderful new WORLD TOMORROW will dawn. It's as certain as the rising of tomorrow's sun!

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
Pastor General
Worldwide Church of God

We practice the way of "GIVE." On request we'll send, gratis, no request for money, Mr. Armstrong's booklet, *The Seven Laws of Success*. Also a free copy of the unique magazine of UNDERSTANDING, *The Plain Truth*. Call now, toll free (800) 423-4444. In California or Alaska call collect (213) 577-5225. Or write Worldwide Church of God, Pasadena, Calif. 91124.

church use. (Actually, the amount of money designated for Y.O.U. programs far exceeds the amount that our youth contribute each year.) As always, through the use of coded labels, a careful accounting of all contributions made by our youth will be maintained.

Let's remember that we should be teaching our children about tithing and the blessings God gives us for obeying His laws.

Holy Day Offering envelopes are sent by third-class mail. Therefore, if you have recently changed your address, they may not be delivered. If you did not receive your envelopes by April 1st, please call the toll-free number in Pasadena (1-800-423-4444). Another set of envelopes will be sent immediately.

From Y.O.U. Office

S.E.P. Update Plans for S.E.P. are moving very swiftly now. Staff selection is now complete, and selection of ministers going to S.E.P. is almost complete. Hopefully, we can run a list of these ministers in the next report.

We received over 1500 applications from prospective campers. The response was certainly overwhelming. Our thanks to all of you who encouraged our young people to apply. We will be accepting 915 campers this summer. Notices of acceptance should reach all the applicants in the next week or so.

Since we weren't able to accept everyone, we concentrated on accepting those who had never been to Orr, and those who were older. We are accepting virtually no 12-year-olds and very few 13-year-olds. We are also accepting only about 90 campers who have been to Orr before (to put a little experience in each dorm). If you have young people or parents who come to you and wonder why their child wasn't accepted, please let them know. We simply had more applicants than we could accept and tried to prioritize need. Encourage the younger campers to apply again next year.

Y.O.U. Update We have received Mr. Armstrong's approval on the Pastor's Manual. They are currently being readied for printing and should be in the mail to all full-time ministers within about three weeks. This should help solve many of your questions about Y.O.U. policies and procedures.

It is now the season for Talent and Track. Please encourage all interested teens to be preparing. If you have a question about dates and locations of either activity in your area, contact your district coordinator.

Non-fleet Mileage Reimbursement Rate Increase (U.S. Ministry)

Effective April 15, 1981 the non-fleet mileage reimbursement rate will be increased to 20¢ per mile for the first 1250 miles driven in a month, and 11¢ per mile for all additional mileage. Ministers receiving a monthly non-fleet mileage allotment will have it raised automatically when the new rate goes into effect.

If there are other questions concerning mileage reimbursement, please consult Pastoral Instruction #3.2.7.2. in the Ministerial Manual.

International News

News From French Areas Around the World After twenty years on Europe No. 1, "Le Monde a Venir" radio broadcast will cease. In November 1980, this powerful station (1.5 million watts) decided to close its door to all religious programs as of March 31, 1981. Unfortunately, we only found out about this decision three weeks ago. Satan is trying to hinder us in preaching the gospel to the European nations. In an effort to obtain a new station, Mr. Apartian has asked our advertising agency to look for possible openings on stations such as Radio Luxembourg or Radio Monte Carlo. However, in Canada and Guadeloupe, possibilities are opening up to have "Le Monde a Venir" radio broadcast on more stations.

On April 8, Mr. Apartian is leaving on a four-week tour of Europe and the Caribbean Islands. In addition to observing the Passover and the week of Unleavened Bread with the French brethren, he will be having public campaigns in France, Belgium, Switzerland, Guadeloupe, and Martinique. On May 30, he will be going to Montreal for a four-day tour to visit the churches and to have a public campaign in Montreal.

The brethren in Haiti will have a treat for this year's Passover. Mr. John Halford, who has a good knowledge of French, will be keeping the Days of Unleavened Bread with them. He will be giving his first sermon in French! It should prove interesting for all concerned.

Mr. Ray Clore, our local elder in Cameroon, is being transferred to the American Consulate in Vancouver. After his departure in August, our brethren in Cameroon will be left without a shepherd to feed them. Your urgent prayers are requested on their behalf!

We are happy to welcome Mr. Bernard Hongerlout as a permanent employee in the French Department in Pasadena. He obtained his work visa and will be a great asset in helping Mr. Apartian in his daily office work. God is beginning to give us the laborers we need.

Appreciation for the Refresher Program

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Thank you so much for instituting the Ministerial Refresher Programs. My wife and I just completed session number eight. What a thrill to see and hear from you in person!

Thank you, Mr. Armstrong, for obeying God all of these years. Thank you for passing on His truths to us and for being the fine example that you are. What a joy to be called into the Philadelphia era of God's Church and what a privilege to be able to serve God's people as an elder. We will remember you continually in our prayers.

Dennis and Lorraine Pelley

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Thank you so very much for instituting the Ministerial Refresher Program. It certainly is the way Christ wants us to be instructed. All the classes were based on the doctrine Christ has put into the

Church through you, His apostle. That was indeed refreshing! This was the first time I have been in for instruction since I graduated in 1966 (except for ministerial conferences). It was well worth the wait! We are already excited about the next round of sessions.

We were especially grateful, also, for the privilege of being able to see and hear you in person at the special meeting which was held during our session. We look forward to your visit to the Oregon churches. We are all behind you!

Larry and Karen Walker

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

My wife and I wish to express our deepest thanks for the opportunity of being part of the eighth Refresher Program. Above all, thank you for the continued inspiration and example you are to us all. It was a rare privilege, and a deeply moving experience, to be present at your return to the Pasadena campus after so long an absence, and to hear you expound at length the basic organization of the Church.

I am confident you would not have been disappointed with any aspect of this refresher session--it has given us a deeper sense of confidence and certainty in the direction God is giving His Work and in the doctrines He has established in His Church. We are returning to our local Church responsibilities well-armed, with our storehouses full and overflowing.

Terry and Beverley Villiers

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

We have really appreciated the opportunity to come in for the Refresher Program. The program has been extremely profitable, and it has also been encouraging to see such a distinct change for the better in the atmosphere around the campus. The loyalty to Jesus Christ and the fruits of that loyalty have been very evident both with those in major responsibilities, and also amongst the "unsung heroes" of the Work--the many employees and staff working in the area.

We are among the many who are grateful for the privilege to be able to support you in this Work, and also to be able to serve in the ministry. Our personal thanks also goes to all those who instructed us, teaching as you have taught, so that we can now be better equipped in serving the Church. Thank you for your part in the way the Church is now being directed, and we pray for your continued strong leadership.

Bob and Kathy Regazzoli

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Greetings from New Zealand. Karen and I have just returned home from the Ministerial Refresher Program. We would like to say THANK YOU for having instituted the program. Apart from our College training, it has been the most profitable experience of our ministry.

Gone are the events of many of the conferences of the 70's, when ministers came in with their "questions." Often the response to these was such that it appeared we did not believe anything anymore!

What a contrast the Refresher Program was! Doctrines as established in God's Church, through you, are taught with clarity and sincerity by the men you had appointed. They are motivated by the beliefs that GOD exists, that the Bible is His Word, and is to be obeyed and that you are His anointed apostle for this end time.

It was a pleasant surprise to have you come and speak in Pasadena. The message you gave has been of great inspiration to the ministry and brethren in this part of the world.

Thank you again for the Refresher Program, and everything you have done for us. We owe so very much to you because of your faithfulness to GOD.

Peter and Karen Nathan

P.S. The last request of our five-year-old son, Benjamin, prior to our departure for the Refresher Program was: "If you see Mr. Armstrong, please say hello to him for me."

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Thank you very much for conceiving of the Refresher Program! Shirley and I enjoyed it tremendously. We found it informative, interesting, fun and "refreshing." But it was not a vacation in any sense!

I don't ever recall a time when I have felt so sure of all of our doctrine and policy. It is reassuring to know that we can speak with confidence the same truths that all the others around us will be speaking as well.

Our only regret would naturally be that you couldn't be there personally for one lecture with each session (though we understand why it's impossible). However, please know that the staff that represented you did certainly speak for you.

We feel especially privileged to have attended with ministers in nine different countries from all over the world. After three weeks we all felt like friends of many years and members of one family. We are already looking forward to our next session a year from now! Thank you again.

Dave and Shirley Pack

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

The work God has called you to do has been amplified by all the fruits you have produced. My wife and I have just completed the eighth session of the Refresher Program. Only you as God's Apostle could have put the program together by the inspiration of Jesus Christ.

Thank you, Mr. Armstrong, for inviting the ministry and my wife and me to the Refresher Program! The teachers you are using are truly filled with God's Holy Spirit, true dedication, loyalty, unity, and a love for God's people.

All the students, workers and ministers reflect a good example and show that God's College, Work and Church are back on the track!!

Mr. Armstrong, what an honor it was for me to sit among the Congress of leading ministers God has called at this time in history. When all of the top ministers from around the world came into the room, a chill ran up my spine just to be sitting in the same room. And when you came into the room it was an automatic standing ovation, as tears of joy came to our eyes. It is exciting to see you in good health and able to accomplish all the work you are doing. It is clear that when God called you He did not call a weakling. Thank you sincerely Mr. Armstrong for allowing my wife and me to be a part of this great Work. It's a pleasure to be behind you to get this Work done!!

Jim and Joyce Russell

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Greetings again from Australia. We arrived back from the Refresher Program to face a mountain of mail which we've only just cleared away.

Now that we're on top of things again, we'd like to take this opportunity to thank you and your staff for a most profitable program. In addition to the excellent courses each day, we were really encouraged by the degree of cooperation and harmony among the various department heads in Pasadena, and also by the interest and friendliness of the students. The fruit of God's Spirit has again made Pasadena the unique place it once was a number of years ago.

Bob and Sandy Morton

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Just a note to say thank you for all the work that went into making the eighth Refresher Program such a success! We must admit that the first couple of days were a bit sobering for Marsi and me as we were focusing on the challenge of measuring up to the calling of the ministry. But each session served to fill our need to learn more about how to serve effectively in the ministry.

The program was tremendously inspiring and helpful!--like a super-concentrated and well balanced slice of the Ambassador College way of life. The campus looked great, and we can personally attest to the spirit of peace that prevailed in contrast to the time we were working in Pasadena.

The Wednesday night dinners, the opportunity to attend the speech banquet and to attend one of the Women's Clubs, the concert opportunities in the Auditorium and the great food all worked together

to complement the classes in an excellent way! We really enjoyed getting to meet the other ministers and their wives! To top it all off, what a privilege to be able to see Mr. Armstrong when he returned to Pasadena!! It truly was a great program for us, and we very much look forward to the new program scheduled to begin after the Feast!

Gary and Marsi Pendergraft

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Karen and I want to express our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for the opportunity of attending the eighth session of the Refresher Program. It certainly lived up to our highest expectations.

We were impressed by the fact that all instruction was based on Mr. Armstrong's teachings. We also appreciated the opportunity to get better acquainted with you and the other evangelists at the "support center" of God's Work. Of course, seeing and hearing Mr. Armstrong at the special Congress of leading ministers was a unique and exciting privilege. (I don't believe any future session can top that!)

We are already looking forward to the next round of sessions. Our only problem now is how to pass along all the information to four churches in the meantime!

Larry and Karen Walker

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Gaye and I would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to you and all the staff for the ninth session of the Ministerial Refresher Program. We feel it has been an honour and a privilege to attend, and feel encouraged and strengthened to more effectively serve God's people.

We appreciate not only the subject matter of the lectures, but also the spirit of cooperation and service that is evident throughout the whole campus. The "turn-around" that has occurred in the Church and College in three short years is dramatic.

Please pass on our thanks to Mr. Armstrong for his dedication and leadership which has enabled such a "turn-around" to occur, and also for the wisdom to see the need for a Refresher Program for ministers and wives.

Ross and Gaye Beath

Ambassador College Training Paves Way for Opportunities

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

I recently received some good news I would like to share with you. I was chosen to represent Rotary International of Oregon in a six-week Professional Exchange with the Rotary in Belgium. I will be on tour speaking to all the Rotary Clubs in Belgium.

I am convinced, Mr. Armstrong, that had I not attended Ambassador College, this great opportunity would not be possible! In fact, similar credit goes for my job with Pacific Power & Light Co. The requirements for my job and this trip entailed strong skills in public speaking and public relations.

Thank you, Mr. Armstrong, for having the God-inspired foresight to create Ambassador College. I just wanted you to know how much your students appreciate one of the many ways God, through you, has blessed his people.

Stuart Segall, Local Elder, Coos Bay, Oregon

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

KINGSPORT, TN--GEORGE ELKINS: God has performed two healing miracles in this Church this past month: A prospective member was healed of serum hepatitis that had put her in the hospital near death. The doctors cannot explain her recovery with no liver damage! Also, the husband of a member requested an anointed cloth a month ago. This week he was found to have a ruptured appendix. God spared his life!

WHEELING, WV--R. SHORTY FUESSEL: The break in the weather has really brought the attendance up. Enthusiasm is running very high. The brethren are loyally and strongly behind Mr. Armstrong. They sense the shortness of time and are inspired by the strength and vigor of Mr. Armstrong's energetic leadership. There is an upturn in hostility from unconverted husbands; wives are experiencing more criticism and neglect--the Church being blamed as the cause.

CANTON, OH--JOHN FOSTER: Finances still frustrate most--due to high heating and gasoline bills. Many positive comments about Mr. Armstrong's tapes--they like his digressions. Overall, things are going well.

JACKSONVILLE, NC--JOHN A. MOSKEL: Marriage and family problems seem to abound, but brethren involved seem to be quite willing to "grow and overcome." Overall attitude of members is positive toward the Work. They deeply appreciate Mr. Armstrong's tapes which we play after services each week.

SOMERSET, KY--MEL DAHLGREN: Working with two promising PMs. The zeal of 10 years ago is clearly back! I can hardly wait to invite them to Church. They realize the importance of building a good foundation first, and are intently studying the basic booklets between monthly visits. Satan is attacking in every direction, but the brethren have the right perspective and are being delivered from each one as God has promised!

KALAMAZOO, MI--KEN WILLIAMS: The brethren are happy and excited about the Ministerial Refresher Program. I received several comments on how anxious they are to hear more about what we received. I've just returned from the eighth Refresher Program. Jesus Christ knows exactly what we need--clearly proven by this program. Many of the trials the brethren are going through here were dealt with in the daily sessions given in Pasadena. I now have some more understanding and knowledge from God's Word on how to help His people in this area.

I've attended conferences since 1973, but the opening session of the Ministerial Refresher Program was worth more than all those other conferences put together. (with the exception of Tucson 1979.)

CLARKSBURG, WV--DAVID M. JOHNSON: Everyone is overjoyed about the decisions to reopen Big Sandy and to stay with larger Feast sites. People enjoyed being able to travel, but many felt that it just didn't seem like the Feast with only a few thousand people.

RALEIGH, NC--MICHAEL E. BOOZE: Enthusiasm is high for all the growth in God's Work. It is good to announce to God's people that the Work is growing at about 30% once again. I'm personally excited about reopening Big Sandy. It sounds as if Mr. Armstrong has installed some outstanding men to lead the college. Locally, Church attendance is up, as is Bible study attendance. Over 90% of the Church shows up at Bible study to hear Mr. Armstrong's tapes on I Corinthians.

KNOXVILLE, TN--DAVID L. ORBAN: Attendance at Sabbath services and Bible studies has increased over last year's figures. Eighteen percent increase for Sabbath services. Baptism requests have jumped from previous months. Announcement of reopening Big Sandy had wide-spread positive response among the members. The positive decisions and direction of the Work are really being felt in positive responses from the brethren.

BISMARCK, ND--DAN CREED: Everyone is excited about the stepped up pace Mr. Armstrong is setting for the Work. The brethren are extremely happy about Big Sandy reopening and several young adults in the area are planning to apply. The brethren are also hoping that Mr. Armstrong will get close enough for them to go see him in one of his church visits.

MELBOURNE, FL--CRAIG L. BACHELLER FOR MR. ROBERT F. BERTUZZI: Have been getting a lot of positive comments about Mr. Armstrong's tapes. The area seems to be taking off with enthusiasm running high. Attendances for Spokesman Clubs, Bible studies and Church services are increasing as people are becoming more involved in the Church and making it the center of their life once again. Mr. Armstrong's leadership is appreciated.

FAYETTEVILLE, NC--PAUL V. KIEFFER: An unusual amount of accidents this month. High unemployment rate (10.9%) here in Fayetteville doesn't help local job market. Several people here having financial troubles as a result.

PHILADELPHIA, PA--CARLOS E. PERKINS: More sickness this month than usual--probably due to weather. Also family problems crop up a bit more than usual. On the whole, though, the Church is moving forward; love, togetherness apparent; some new people also.

BOWLING GREEN, KY--KENT FENTRESS: Fellowship continues to be a major part of Sabbath. Money is tight! Visits are paying off with some real changes. Several are counselling for baptism.

Weekly Letter Comments

As the Work speeds closer to the end of this era, letters show that the brethren are completely behind God's apostle, expressing heartfelt appreciation for his labor of love. Members are also thanking Mr. Armstrong for the Ministerial Refresher Program. Many have noticed a renewed inspiration in their ministers after they returned from Pasadena. In the final group of comments, students of the Correspondence Course share their thrill and excitement over their newfound understanding as a result of the informative lessons. They recognize that the Bible course is entirely different and unique.

Brethren Fully Support God's Apostle

I can't put into words how good and uplifting it is to see you fully recovered and back in full control of God's Church, and once more proclaiming the true Gospel to the world in power. Your live messages at the Feast and the Bible study tapes are like a pleasant rain after a long drought. There is a warm, friendly family spirit in the local congregations again, and God's truth is being boldly proclaimed to the flocks by God's loyal ministers.

My family and I want to express our love and support for you as God's present-day apostle, the one through whom we received understanding of God's truth. We pray that God will open more doors to you and give you everything needed to complete the Work you have been commissioned to do.

Mr. & Mrs. Edward Engelhardt (Climax, NY)

I want to let you know how thrilled we are in Australia at hearing the news of your upcoming visit here. So many exciting things have been happening as a result of God's Church getting back on the tracks. If you hadn't been faithful and obedient to God, Mr. Armstrong, we wouldn't enjoy life today as we do, or have the hope of being a part of God's Kingdom. Thank you very much for all you have done. We are praying that God will not allow anything to prevent your visit to Australia.

Mr. & Mrs. J.W. Dickson (Epping, Australia)

God has given me, and others, life through you, Mr. Armstrong. Today I might have been an alcoholic, or a drug addict, or a deviate, or perhaps even a suicide case, IF it weren't for you. But because you reached me with God's message, today I am leading an extremely happy married and family life. Today I can wake up each morning with a radiant purpose in my eyes. We brethren in India are behind you one hundred percent, Mr. Armstrong! And, we pray fervently for you and the Work daily.

Joseph Cherian (Chengannur, India)

Your "labor of love," Mr. Armstrong, is not going unnoticed, you can be sure! We see the end results of the long hours of sacrifice--the articles which appear in The PLAIN TRUTH, WORLDWIDE NEWS and GOOD NEWS; the revived and revised reprints; the books and the broadcasts (both radio and television). We realize that this is only a glimpse of what is going on behind the scenes. Thank you

for being such a loyal and dedicated servant of God. Please know, and never wonder, that we are all indeed solidly behind you--ALL of us, ALL the way!

The Perraults (St. Johnsbury, VT)

I'm writing to say "Thank you" for your unfailing loyalty and continued dedication to doing God's Work, despite all the persecution and opposition Satan has been able to muster against you and the Church. You are a boulder of strength, with God's Spirit visibly directing your efforts to keep God's Church back on track. Yet, we recognize too that you, like the rest of us, are only human and that it must take much conscious effort on your part to set your mind towards totally pursuing the way of "give" in serving God and the Church. You are a tremendous example and inspiration to us all.

Oscar E. Ferreira (Escondido, CA)

Members Inspired by Ministers After Refresher Program

Thank you for the Refresher Program classes being given to the ministers of God's Church. Our minister is giving the best-delivered, most informative and balanced sermons I have heard in the 20 years I have been in God's Church.

Mrs. Robert Cain (Barbarton, OH)

I am writing to thank you (Mr. Armstrong) for the Refresher Program. It seems to have opened a door to the truth I had never seen or heard before. Our local minister returned from the program and spoke like never before. The only person I have heard speak this way is you. God seems to be really pouring out His knowledge on us. I hope we can take it and repent of any wrong attitudes and go God's way.

Mr. & Mrs. Larry R. Taylor (Starke, FL)

Our minister recently returned from the Refresher Program and based one of his sermons on the classes there. However, the most interesting of all was how much more smoothly Pasadena is running since you (Mr. Armstrong) have put the Church back on track. He said the difference is amazing. Everyone was so much more friendly and it was a pleasure to be there.

Anne Mitrus (Endicott, NY)

We are thanking God daily for you (Mr. Armstrong), our ministers, and the Ministerial Refresher Program that is actually refreshing all of us. Our minister and one of the local elders have indeed been refreshed and the sermonettes and sermons we are getting are spurring us on to new growth and rekindling our first love! Brethren are fasting, praying and studying as never before!

Don & Darlene Heller (La Mirada, CA)

My local pastor has just returned from Pasadena where he took a part in the Refresher Program. I would like to thank you (Mr. Armstrong) and God for instituting this program. Our pastor has come back almost a different man. Now he is incredibly more powerful in his sermon and actions. He has acquired new confidence and conviction. I have noticed a positive, powerful change. It seems

the Refresher Program has given the ministry a much more defined direction with regard to policies and doctrines of the Church. And this is only Phase I of the program! Mr. Armstrong, this program is helping God's ministry greatly.

Darrell Clutton (Ontario, Canada)

Our minister has just returned from the Refresher Program in Pasadena and has been so inspired since he returned. He is giving us sermons and Bible studies filled with what he has learned. He inspires us just from his inspiration! Thank you (Mr. Armstrong) for these sessions which call God's ministers into Pasadena.

Craig & Helene Dunlap (Jacksonville, FL)

Correspondence Course Unlocks Real Meaning in Life

I am very impressed with the Ambassador College Correspondence Course and am on my fifth lesson. I have always read and studied my Bible, but there was still so much I did not know. The course is so interesting that when I finish one lesson, I can hardly wait to get the next one.

Mrs. Alberta Barnett (Corpus Christi, TX)

I would like to thank you for making the Correspondence Course the most interesting and thoughtfully constructed course I have ever seen. I've studied the Bible for many years and attended Sunday school and church, but I am learning things from this course that I didn't even know were in the Bible. And, praise God, you send it to me free! I could not afford a course like this. The truth I have found is staggering to my imagination.

Rheta Freeman (Vancouver, WA)

I've just completed my seventh lesson of the Correspondence Course and must say that each lesson has been most informative and inspirational. Never had I heard of the seventh-day Sabbath, and knew nothing about the books of Daniel and Revelation, the second resurrection, what Armageddon and hell are and a multiplicity of other things. Frankly, I've been shocked at my own ignorant upbringing in religion. Thanks to this course I have studied and learned more about the Bible, the calling of God, His plans for me and the wonderful future I can have.

Thelma Brandful (Dawson, GA)

I am currently studying the Bible lessons offered by Ambassador College. I must say that my knowledge, wisdom, and understanding has been enhanced tremendously. No other church or teacher has ever revealed such marvellous light, and I am bearing witness to the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. I realize I am a babe in Christ, however, as long as I continue to drink the sincere milk of the Word, I am sure my growth in Christ will be a strong and everlasting one. I thank God Almighty for you (Mr. Armstrong) and your entire staff for making it possible for me to receive such a wonderful blessing.

Charles C. Swain (Los Angeles, CA)

I have now finished the Correspondence Course. It is the best thing that has happened to me. It changed my thoughts, theories and myths from my previous religious background to the inspired Word of God. I proved every chapter and verse quoted in the course. It completely agreed with the Bible. I've read other supplementary literature. It also agreed with the Bible. I have learned that life is an everyday relationship with God. May God give me the knowledge, wisdom and ability to continue.

Wayne Stegman (Neihe, ND)

--JOE TKACH, MINISTERIAL SERVICES

FESTIVAL TRANSFERS TO THE UNITED STATES

For the benefit of members outside the U.S. wishing to transfer to a U.S. site for the 1981 Feast of Tabernacles, please advise them to write a letter to the Festival Office, 300 West Green Street, Pasadena, CA, 91123 including all the following information:

1. Their site of first preference
2. Two subsequent preferences (in order)
3. Name and full postal address
4. Number of adults and children (18 & under) in party including ages of children
5. State if single or senior (over 55)
6. State whether they need information on housing available, or if they intend to handle it personally via a travel agent

Travel plans should not be confirmed until an approval is received from the U.S. Festival Office. Please encourage all transfers to write to Pasadena as early as possible after receiving their local festival letter to avoid disappointment in being turned down for one of the more popular sites.

NOTE: These instructions do not in any way negate or alter the responsibilities they have to fulfill instructions and complete forms from their local Festival Office.

--Festival Office

ON THE WORLD SCENE

CRISIS IN POLAND: WILL GERMANY FINALLY WAKE UP? The Soviet Army is poised around Poland, ready to strike. Reports of troop movements, even an airlift of supplies into a Russian base in southern Poland, are rife.

The calling off of this week's scheduled nationwide strike by the Solidarity labor union movement has settled nothing. Moscow is convinced that the radicals in Solidarity are determined to turn the movement into an alternate political force. Such a development is absolutely impermissible in Moscow's eyes, of course. The Kremlin prefers that Poland's Communist leaders solve the crisis themselves but they seem powerless to do so. The Soviet press is firing one salvo after another at the "weak" Warsaw government--just as it did before Mr. Brezhnev "rescued" socialism in Czechoslovakia in 1968.

Thus the stage is set for what most observers believe will be a bloody showdown, with dire consequences possible. For one, the world's economy could be dealt a big blow if the Soviets decide to move in. The very significant trade between East and West Europe would come to a screeching halt. Militarily, the Western countries can do nothing since Poland lies totally in the Soviet orbit, squeezed between East Germany and the Soviet Union.

Yet, a Soviet intervention could wake up nations in Western Europe that have lost their spirit, having become mired in materialism. Even the United States, itself coming out of a slumber, has been warning Western Europe of a "creeping pacifism," of a desire to be "Better Red than dead."

West Germany, too, has succumbed somewhat to this paralysis of will. The Federal Republic has been running out of steam. Chancellor Helmut Schmidt is struggling to stay in office, to prevent a blowup of his coalition which is torn between the radical left of his own party and the moderate center-right Free Democrats. Herr Schmidt's future will be better known after the mayoralty elections in West Berlin next month. Berlin has long been a Social Democratic stronghold, at one time catapulting its mayor, Willy Brandt, right into the Chancellor's seat. But a scandal in the city government now imperils SPD control of this key political seat.

The CDU conservatives, however, are not taking full advantage of the troubles in the ruling SPD-FDP coalition. Party leader Helmut Kohl, according to some critics, is trying to move the party more to the politically safe center, hoping to appeal to voters who deserted the conservatives and Franz Josef Strauss for the FDP last October. At the same time, Herr Strauss, from his Bavarian Christian Socialist Union position, is trying to keep the conservative sister parties from slipping into the muddled middle, thereby losing their uniqueness.

This "lack of uniqueness" reflects West German society as a whole today. This is brought out in an excellent article in the March 30, 1981 issue of The New Yorker entitled "Sinking Into Materialism." The author, William Pfaff, begins by saying that "West Germany's complicated love affair with the United States was finally broken off during the Carter years."

More than any other nation involved in the Second World War, free Germany modeled its society after that of the United States. Britain provided no role model, since it had chosen to play second fiddle to the American superpower. France, humiliated by Germany in 1940, could not be the example for the new democratic Germany either.

The United States and its new German "son" respected each other. "This cooperation," said Pfaff, underlined by "characteristic American pragmatism and good will" was made all the easier because "the United States had not really suffered very much at German hands." Maturing as a new nation, the Germans proceeded to make peace with their neighbors, principally the French. The trans-Rhine tie was sealed with the meeting of Adenauer and de Gaulle in 1962.

Still, the Germans continued beset by what Pfaff called "the unstated problem of German national definition. What role was the new Germany to play in post-war Europe?" Reunification with that part of Germany under Soviet domination was out of the question, for the short run at least. The allied nations, even the U.S., paid only lip service to the distant,

undefined goal of reunification. Nobody on either side of the iron Curtain really wanted a unified Germany anyway.

The Germans turned to the goal of a politically united Europe to find a national purpose. "To create Europe was an appropriate task for Germans," notes Pfaff, "but that opportunity has now been taken away from Germany: Such is the as yet unrecognized significance of enlarging the European Community to nine, then ten, and eventually thirteen members."

The Common Market has drifted away from the "core Europe" of Germany, France, Italy and the Benelux states. Britain and Denmark are reluctant foot-draggers. New member Greece is barely in Europe, at least in its state-of-mind. Prospective members Spain and Portugal represent many additional problems politically and economically. And with Turkey as a member, the EC would no longer even be wholly in Europe.

The original aim of a "political Europe" is now so remote that the Community seems destined to be nothing more than an unromantic, bureaucratic, glorified (or unglorified) customs union. With the Community's only focus that of mercantilism, West Germany's natural purpose, if it can be called that, is similar to that of the United States--to maintain and try to enjoy the fruits of materialism. Nothing more.

But if a purposeless Germany is a dilemma, a Germany with a purpose can be a great danger. Germany, notes Pfaff, has consistently looked for justification in causes larger than mere national aggrandizement: "From the times of the Teutonic knights and their crusades against pagan Balts and Slavs, Germans have believed in a destiny of European consequence-- a historical mission."

Even earlier, Otto I consolidated much of Central Europe, making the "barbarians" of old Roman days the Christian successors in the West of the Roman emperors. This new empire's missionary obligation was to convert remaining pagans.

Much later, in 1870 with the final amalgamation of the remaining Germanic states (before the process began there were 1789 separate "Germanies") the new "Second Reich" looked for its historic meaning as well.

The "Second Reich" under the Protestant Hohenzollern line, however, could not claim Holy Roman succession. William I, who became German emperor in 1871, wanted to be crowned with what Chancellor Bismark had called "the true crown"--the Holy Roman crown. But the Austrian government refused his request. Thus the "woman" did not ride this particular resurrection.

Instead the new German Empire's leaders looked elsewhere in their past for meaning and continuity. They exalted Germany's cultural achievements, particularly German gifts for poetry and music. However, this German rebirth was interrupted by the First World War. After the war, and after the abdication of the emperor, came the purposeless Weimar Republic. "It was merely a democracy," notes Pfaff. "It had to be destroyed. It was unsuitable for a German people entrusted with an historic destiny-- temporarily suspended."

The National Socialists terminated the suspension. It was back to the business of glorifying German Kultur. Writes Pfaff: "In this period of

romanticism, the German regard for artists as demonic evokers of universal powers (Doctors Faustus) reached a strength that was to affect our own times. Even the Nazi leaders wanted to be considered artists: Hitler attempted to be an architect and a painter; Goebbels published a novel; Goering was a patron of the arts. They sought to be universal figures, transcendents. The German historian Ludwig Dehio said after the war, 'We were the last, and the most daemonic, power to exercise hegemony over the declining old continent of Europe.' The Germans had finally been successful in summoning demons: The demons came."

And the ashes. And the rebirth from the ashes, the post-war "French connection," the American imitation, and the goal of a united Europe, arrived at peacefully through economics and politics. But the Germans sense that the European Community is going no place. Even the Americans are not to be trusted any more. For Bonn, the Carter Administration amounted to four years of will-of-the-wisp frustration. And the fear now is that the new men at the helm in Washington might pursue a "dangerous course" with Moscow. (Although Strauss is a firm believer in Mr. Reagan's economic and foreign policies).

"We are the least nationalistic of all people," says (privately of course) an official in the German Foreign Ministry. But when German nationalism is awakened with a mission again for European civilization--look out!

Would a Soviet invasion of Poland stir Germany and the rest of Western Europe into an awareness of the need to get the idea of a United Europe off dead center? Will the Pope once again appeal to the German people to preserve Christian civilization? Will the German people at last acknowledge that Franz Josef Strauss' many warnings last year about Germany's loss of direction, morality and the will to defend the country --which voters dismissed as scary oratory--were correct after all? Strauss' day may yet come.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau