

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

International News

Year-end Report From Canada Another year has come and gone. 1982 was a very fine year for God's Work in Canada, and it ended with a bang. December was a record month for income--the first month ever with over \$1 million income (we had over \$1 million in August, 1981, but that was two months' income coming in after the postal strike, so it was abnormal). The increase over December of 1981 was 18.1% and brought our year-to-date increase just .1% short of 14%. We are very pleased with this considering the state of the economy right now.

Records were also set in other areas. Mail processed was an all-time record. We processed 527,960 pieces of mail in 1982, which was a 79.2% increase over 1981 and the highest since the Work was started here back in 1961. In 1982 we mailed out 1,499,057 pieces of literature, which was a 33.8% increase over the previous year. The top two booklets requested were U.S. AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY (43,152) and NEVER BEFORE UNDERSTOOD: WHY HUMANITY CANNOT SOLVE ITS EVILS (40,404). THE PLAIN TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS was next with 20,607.

In the media area, here is the breakdown of the percentages of advertising responses to total advertisements received from the various advertisements and electronic media:

	Percentages of Total Ad Responses
Space Ads (magazine advertising)	18.0
Radio Mail	0.8
Television Mail	3.2
Unknown Radio/TV	1.4
PT Newsstands	16.3
PT Gift Subscriptions	0.1
PT Newspaper Inserts	31.0
Card Holder Program	0.4
Waiting Room Program	5.0
PT Subscription Blow-in Cards	11.1
Miscellaneous	12.7

PLAIN TRUTH circulation as of the year's end stood at 207,511 English and 76,377 French. Newsstand copies for the February, 1983 issue will be 300,000 English and 35,000 French.

At the end of 1982, total GOOD NEWS circulation was 13,257 English, 156 French and YOUTH 82 circulation was 5,343 English, 145 French. New PT subscribers added in 1982 totaled 111,574 English, 52,140 French. A total of 3,840 new GN readers were added in 1982. Also, since the international GOOD NEWS was started, the French circulation in Canada gained 1,201 readers.

We are now distributing over half a million PLAIN TRUTHS each month and we hope to see an increase as 1983 continues. The newsstands will receive more copies as the months progress and as we have the budget to expand.

Church attendance in 1982 increased by 4.3%. We now have over 10,000 people attending each week on a regular basis. Baptisms were down in 1982 over 1981 by -8.6% (a total of 331). Membership now stands at 5,574 English and 478 French for a total of 6,052, which is an increase of 5.2% over 1981. We also had 1,083 new visit requests for an increase of 33.4% over the year before.

Appreciation for the Second Ministerial Refreshing Program

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

We want to thank you for the tremendous help and inspiration you constantly give, as God gives to you.

The second Refreshing Program is doing a great job for the Church in many ways. We were overwhelmed by the warmth and hospitality shown us by the Headquarters team and by the college. The students certainly reflect the leadership you have provided. They have the blessing of being at Ambassador College now that we are back on the track.

We hope to share the information given us at Headquarters with the brethren, helping them to stay close to God and to faithfully support you and the Headquarters team in getting God's Work done.

Jack and Wilma Williams

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

My wife Rhonda and I wish to express our deep appreciation for being allowed to attend the November 8-19, 1982 session of the Ministerial Refreshing Program. We appreciated the opportunity to spend time with other ministers and their wives and to share experiences with men from around the world. Being once again at Headquarters and seeing old friends was surely a treat. The major joy, however, was in learning more of God's truth from the inspiring and well-planned lectures we heard. Our one regret was that we were not able to hear you in person.

We have used much of the information we received during the program since returning to our local area and plan to continue to give to others what we have received. Thanks again for instituting the Refreshing Program and allowing the local elders and their wives to attend.

Ray and Rhonda Clore

Dear Mr. Tkach:

We very much enjoyed being at Headquarters for session twelve of this current Refreshing Program. Our thanks to all those in Ministerial Services who have made this program such an ongoing success and benefit to the ministry worldwide. We are looking forward to program number three!

It is encouraging to visit Headquarters these days. This Work may have a way to go toward perfection, but we both felt the inspiration of God's Spirit working through His Headquarters team--hard work, integrity, loyalty, equity, balance, and a commitment to service seem to be the order of the day! And, judging by the growth and blessings Christ is giving, it seems that He is once again pleased with the progress His Church is making.

It was a delight to start the new calendar year by following Mr. Armstrong's proclamation to fast. We have often fasted as a Church in the face of crisis; how encouraging to fast when there is a crisis of growth!

We will continue to pray for the faithful executive team, college faculty, and employees who are doing such a fine job of backing up Christ's apostle in this end-time Work.

Robert and Gail Millman

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

CHICO/EUREKA, CA--MARC SEGALL: There is increasing enthusiasm in the PT Newsstand Program--one-third of the entire congregation is now regularly involved. Brethren really enjoyed seeing again the 1982 film "Behind the Work." That film definitely helps the congregation relate more to Mr. Armstrong's commission and appreciate the full range of accomplishments of this Work. Members are watching telecasts more regularly as well. They comment about the content much more frequently. PM activity has remained strong in the Chico area.

PORTLAND (WEST), OR--DAN FRICKE: In general the attitude of Church members continues to be positive with good involvement in activities. Much interest was shown by most in Mr. Armstrong's recent trip and letter regarding conditions in Europe. Unemployment continues to be a problem with numerous members out of work; however, other members are willing to help as they can.

PASADENA (SPANISH), CA--ROBERT V. FLORES: The Church as a whole is really taking to heart the sobering messages Mr. Armstrong has been bringing us and is making whatever changes are possible in order to reduce unnecessary expenses and place more of our money and effort where it will do the most good.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

AMBASSADOR COLLEGE UPDATE

(Pasadena Campus)

We are now in the second semester of the college year. Overall, the students did very well last semester. We dropped only two students--primarily for academic reasons. The students continue to make good scores and to set fine examples. Visiting ministers and their wives continue to mention how good it is to see happy, smiling faces of students, faculty and employees once again here at Headquarters. In fact, Mr. Don Lawson (now serving in the Pittsburgh area) during his sermonette last Sabbath afternoon, commented about the great contrast between the attitudes of the students,

faculty and ministers of a few years ago as compared with the attitudes which he sees on campus today.

Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong spoke to the ministers on the Refreshing Program yesterday afternoon (Wednesday, the 19th), and he also gave an interesting and informative Bible study last Friday evening. During the study, he gave a history of the Church of God from the mid-1800s to the present. Most of his study centered around his personal contact with and knowledge of the "Sardis" Church during the early years when he worked with them. He said that he hopes to make this material concerning the history of the Worldwide Church of God available to God's Church.

Mr. Armstrong and party intend to leave for Asia (Japan, People's Republic of China, etc.) the early part of this coming week. We will all, I am sure, be remembering them in our prayers--that God will grant them a safe and very profitable trip.

Mr. Larry Salyer (Dean of Students at Big Sandy) is scheduled to arrive on campus this Friday (21st) and will spend the next eight or nine days here. Also, Mr. Les McCullough (Deputy Chancellor at Big Sandy) will arrive at Pasadena so he can attend the special concert by Mr. Roger Bryant and Mrs. Ruth Walter, to be performed with the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra. The concert will be held in the Ambassador Auditorium this coming Sunday afternoon and will be attended by the faculty, students and local brethren.

A week from this Friday, my wife and I will fly to Big Sandy where I will spend a little over one week teaching classes, taking a forum, a Bible study, and give a couple of sermons. (We will be in Big Sandy on two Sabbaths where I am scheduled to speak the first Sabbath, and then in an outlying Church the second Sabbath.)

As during past years, the question recently came up again as to whether or not students here at the College are under too much "pressure." After looking over the student schedule of activities very carefully, the College administration and faculty concluded that the problem is not so much that too much is required of the students as it is a problem of students learning to set the proper priorities. Studies, work, class attendance and required activities, of themselves, do not put too much pressure on most students. But it is in the area of extracurricular activities where most of the students allow themselves to become too pressurized. Some students try to take part in too many extracurricular activities. Others are just careless with their time. Still others (who properly prioritize their activities) "spin their wheels" and don't make efficient use of their time and energy.

So, during a recent forum, I stressed the importance of all students 1) learning to put first things first; 2) attending those important extracurricular activities (such as graduation exercises, major dances, forums and assemblies, etc.); 3) learning that certain other extracurricular activities are not mandatory. In other words, they must learn to judge as to whether or not they need to miss a basketball game (or some other extracurricular activity) in order to do needed study or work so as to keep from being dropped from Ambassador College because of academic or financial problems!

I think the students are now learning to have a little more balance in this area. I am sure we are all aware that during past years some graduates

(women--wives especially) have been pretty well "burned out" by the time they graduated. Some have taken many months, or even years, to get their health level back up to the proper standard because they overworked themselves while at Ambassador College. We do not want to see this happen.

Even so, I showed the students that from the beginning of Ambassador, Mr. Armstrong has wanted the students to know that at Ambassador College they would lead jam-packed lives and would have to carefully budget their classes and work hours in order to have sufficient time left over to take part in the more important extracurricular activities of the College.

Ambassador College has often been likened unto the "West Point" of the Church. And, as such, we cannot lower God's high standards to accommodate every person who has a physical, emotional or mental handicap. We must screen the applicants so that we only accept those who are able to do a high level of work while at Ambassador. If we find a student is so physically weak or so mentally or emotionally handicapped that he can't take the "pressure," then we will certainly sympathize with him. But we cannot let up on the reasonable pressure which we put on the normal, average student just because a few can't take the pressure. This would be like a clunker of an old car not being able to keep up with the rest of the traffic on a superhighway. Such a car would have to exit the freeway and get on a slower road, rather than have all the traffic slow down to perhaps 20 or 25 miles per hour--the maximum speed of the dilapidated old jalopy.

I hope that you ministers will keep this in mind when you evaluate applicants for Ambassador College. We are not only interested in the ability of prospective students to do a high level of academic work, but we also want to know that they have the physical and emotional balance and stamina to take the "pressure" of the life of a very busy Ambassador College student. I am sure that most of you well remember some of the pressures which you were under while attending Ambassador!

Please continue to pray for the students, faculty and administration of the College--as well as for the faithful ministers and others who continue to hold up the hands of God's apostle in their respective responsibilities here at Headquarters. It is very refreshing to see the department heads of the Work of God faithfully carrying out Mr. Armstrong's policies and decisions. In the past there were those who did their own thing--their own will. We all need to remember that Christ repeatedly stressed that He did not come to do His own will, but came to carry out the will of His Father. Recognizing that God is working through His apostle, this "not-my-will-but-thine-be-done" attitude is very important for those of us serving here at Pasadena as we strive to carry out Mr. Armstrong's policies and decisions--as well as for those of you faithfully serving in God's Work in the far-flung corners of the earth!

--Raymond F. McNair, Deputy Chancellor

MAIL PROCESSING UPDATE

All-time Records Set in 1982!

The 49th year of this worldwide Work was one of the most productive and fruitful in its modern-day history. God's Work experienced substantial growth, with a number of major new records established!

Here is a summary of the ALL-TIME RECORDS set this past year. Although some have been mentioned previously, we thought you'd be interested in a recap with the complete totals. This list helps to underscore what a truly outstanding year of accomplishment 1982 really was!

- Worldwide circulation of The PLAIN TRUTH topped five million--22% over the previous all-time record of 1981.
- "The World Tomorrow" telecast appeared on 184 TV stations in the United States as of December, 1982. The previous high was 107 stations in 1981.
- Altogether an estimated 70 million pieces of literature--including PLAIN TRUTHS, books, booklets, letters, CC lessons, etc.--were distributed worldwide.
- The Postal Center mailed out 22,095,950 pieces--10% more than in 1974, the former record year.
- Pasadena and Tucson combined received 3,812,467 pieces of mail--a six percent increase over the previous record set in 1975.
- 611,033 WATS calls were received. Two-thirds were responses to "The World Tomorrow" telecast. The previous high was 565,319 in 1975.
- U.S. subscribers requested 4,346,381 booklets, books and reprint articles. This exceeds by three percent a record that had stood since 1973.
- A total of 1,210,000 new people were added to the U.S. PLAIN TRUTH subscription list--a gain of 35% over 1981's record 896,000.
- Total TV response, including phone calls and letters, was 484,526--nine percent above the former record set in 1975.
- New students enrolled in the CORRESPONDENCE COURSE totaled 134,643 which eclipsed the 1973 record by 1,578 students.

These encouraging gains certainly made 1982 a busy and exciting year for the Mail Processing Center!

Children's Letters to Mr. Armstrong

Young children often write to Mr. Armstrong, telling him about their personal lives and openly sharing their thoughts about our literature and the Church. We thought you would enjoy the following letters of appreciation expressed as only children with their gentle, childlike attitudes can.

How are you doing? I hope everything is going right up there. I am nine years old and my name is Rebecca. I read the YOUTH 82 to my dad. I like to read it.

I am glad that we have the Feast. I had a good time at the Feast and I hope that you had a good time at the Feast too. Nice talking--I have to go now. Goodbye.

Rebecca--age 9 (Canton, OH)

Enclosed is fifty cents. This is my first tithe. I won five dollars in a coloring contest at Albertson's. I am seven years old and I live in Seattle, Washington. I take scriptures at Church. We sure love our minister, Mr. Luker. We especially love you, Mr. Armstrong, God's apostle. Keep up the good work.

S.B.--age 7 (Seattle, WA)

Thank you for doing God's Work. This tithe dollar says, In God We Trust, and I do trust God.

J.D.--age 7 (Saginaw, MI)

I'm fasting this January 1st and hoping I'll make it to sunset tomorrow. I pray for you every day. Our whole family likes the work you're doing. I really like the way you sign your name.

J.P.--age 10 (Torrance, CA)

I received my first letter and third CORRESPONDENCE COURSE lesson....I decided to tithe. I only have a dollar so that's what I'm sending. My mother tithes too. We just came to the Church....By the way I'm an 11-year-old girl. I'm trying very much to learn God's Word. I have requested a lot of your books. They help me to grow and live with everything, even my father (who is a non-believer). My tithe is enclosed.

R.J.--age 11 (Edgewood, MD)

Thank you for the BIBLE STORY you gave to me at the Feast. My favorite story is the one about Noah and the animals. I hope you are feeling better. I asked God to heal you.

B.W.--age 4 (Hillsboro, OR)

My name is Kendra and I picked up your magazine in a local grocery store not too far from where I live. On the way home I read the story "What is the Worst Sin?" It was very interesting. When I tell you how old I am you will probably think I do not understand what this story is talking about, but I think I do. I am 12 years old. I really think that your magazine is very fascinating. I told my mother about one of your issues on drugs and alcohol. She told me that many kids my age are taking drugs. I can't really believe that's true (but I know it is). Thank you very much.

Kendra--age 12 (Wright City, MO)

I like to give offerings. I am collecting all the booklets and magazines of the Church. I study the Bible and read the booklets. I am eight years old and like Church. Last time I was sick and could not come because it would make other people sick. I will come to Church as many times as I can.

E.S.--age 8 (Pasadena, CA)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

1983--WATCH OUT! The new year has started off with a flurry of diplomatic activity. Just this past week two extremely significant high-level visits took place almost simultaneously.

Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko visited Bonn, West Germany in an undisguised attempt to split the Western Alliance. Mr. Gromyko alternately wooed the Germans and warned them of dire consequences should they go along with the NATO plan to deploy new intermediate-range missiles by the end of the year.

Moscow, in effect, has already cast its vote in the upcoming (March 6) elections in the Federal Republic. The Soviets want to see the new conservative government of Helmut Kohl, which backs the NATO decision, turned out. Mr. Gromyko's three-hour-long private conference with Social Democratic candidate, Hans Jochen Vogel, shows where the Kremlin's sympathies lie. Herr Vogel appears to have abandoned former Socialist Chancellor Helmut Schmidt's support for the NATO plan (in fact, Schmidt initiated it).

Watch for fireworks in Western Europe over the missile issue during the next several months. Observers are even calling 1983 the "Year of the Missile" in Europe. If European governments wilt under Soviet pressure, the greatest crisis in NATO's 34 years will result. If the new missiles are not deployed, the mood in America will shift against the "soft Europeans." "Why should we continue to defend them," will be the hue and cry in the U.S. Congress.

At the same time, Japan's new Prime Minister, Yasuhiro Nakasone, visited the United States in an attempt to diffuse a burgeoning trade war between the two Pacific rim powers. He also promised that Japan would do more to help the U.S. defend the Northwestern Pacific region against growing Soviet power.

In an interview given to the WASHINGTON POST, Mr. Nakasone boldly stated his belief that Japan should become an "unsinkable aircraft carrier" capable of stopping the penetration south of Soviet long-range strategic "Back fire" bombers. He also proposed that the Japanese Navy be increased in strength so that should Japan ever be directly attacked (not just the U.S.), the Navy would be able to block the four straits in and out of the Japan Sea through which ships of the Soviet Far East fleet must pass. (Nakasone also expressed concern that some of the missiles that the Soviets may remove from Europe may be retargeted against Japan.)

The Soviets reacted strongly to the Nakasone "unsinkable aircraft carrier" statement as well as to announced plans by Japan to deploy 48 American F-16 fighter-bombers in northern Japan by 1985. The Soviet news agency TASS said that "in the present nuclear age there can be no unsinkable aircraft carrier." TASS further warned that Nakasone's "aircraft carrier" strategy would "make Japan a likely target for a retaliatory strike" which could be a bigger disaster than took place 37 years ago. The U.S. State Department denounced the obvious reference to the destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 as an attempt to intimidate Japan.

The growing ability of the Soviet Union to influence events in Europe and Asia at the expense of America and its allies shows how far the global

balance-of-power relationship between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. has tipped in Moscow's favor.

America's Post-War Cycles

The two visits described above give new evidence that 1983 promises to be a watershed year in modern history. In fact, it is significant to note that the summer of 1983 will complete 38 years (19 x 2) since the end of World War II and the sudden emergence of the United States as the predominant world power. Looking back, we certainly can see two distinct "political time cycles," (if we may coin a phrase) within that span of time.

The years 1945-1964 marked the highwater mark of U.S. power and prestige in the world. On August 6, 1945, an American B-29 "Superfortress" dropped the atomic bomb on the Japanese city of Hiroshima. Japan's fate was sealed. In quick succession followed bomb number two on Nagasaki (August 9), the Japanese offer of surrender (August 10), the U.S. acceptance (August 14) and the formal surrender (September 2).

On August 5, 1964, 19 years after Hiroshima, almost to the day, the U.S. Congress overwhelmingly approved, at President Lyndon B. Johnson's request, the Tonkin Gulf Resolution. (On August 2 and 4 North Vietnamese naval craft attacked U.S. vessels in international waters off the Vietnamese coast.) The resolution authorized the President to "take all necessary measures to repel any armed attack against forces of the United States and to prevent further aggression." Congress also approved the use of American military forces to come to the aid of allied states in Southeast Asia requesting assistance.

Thus the way was paved for an ultimately disastrous full-scale military involvement on the part of the United States in Southeast Asia. This was the true beginning of the process in the decline of U.S. power and prestige in the world. The years 1964 to the present have witnessed this steady erosion in U.S. power.

The frustrating no-win war in Vietnam led to America's ignominious departure in 1975. After that date, the Soviet Union, capitalizing on America's fear-ridden (Leviticus 26:19) "Vietnam syndrome" stepped up subversive activity on all parts of the global compass, especially in Africa and Central America, the latter right under Washington's nose.

Politically the 1972 Watergate scandal sapped the power of the U.S. Presidency, forcing out a strong head-of-state, Richard Nixon, in 1974 and ushering in, in 1977, the disastrous (in terms of foreign prestige) four-year tenure of Jimmy Carter.

The year 1964 was also significant in other regards. It was a turning point for the United States in the United Nations, when the balance-of-power began to shift from the U.S.-led West to the Third World, influenced by the Communist bloc. America's current Ambassador to the United Nations, Jeane K. Kirkpatrick took note of this power shift--and the "watershed year" of 1964, as she called it--in a speech she delivered before the Heritage Foundation Conference in New York City on June 7, 1982:

Eighteen months is long enough for me to have observed at first hand the relative powerlessness of the United States at the

United Nations, to have felt in virtually all the arenas of that body our lack of influence....

Today there are some 157 members of the United Nations. There have been three members admitted during my eighteen months there. Most of the nations that have been admitted since the U.N.'s establishment are new nations, former colonies. The big influx of the former colonies into the U.N. occurred alongside the beginning of the decline of U.S. influence. Someone noted that 1964 was a watershed year. During that year seventeen new nations were admitted to membership, some fifteen of which were African nations. Many of these new nations have unstable boundaries: their whole national history has been lived out in the post-war period during which the United Nations has been an important arena of international action. They have never known a world without the U.N. Most of these nations are, to paraphrase my friend Dick Scammon, unrich, unpowerful and unhappy. Most are miserably poor, most of them are also non-democratic, in the sense that they do not enjoy democratic political institutions.

The year 1964 was also a critical one for the United States on the home front as well. On June 19 of that year the U.S. Senate passed the Civil Rights bill which greatly increased the federal government's power to combat racial discrimination. However, despite its clearly defined intent and purpose, the legislation unfortunately gave ideas to certain non-racial "minorities" seeking relief from what they claimed was "discrimination." Causes such as gay rights, the "fem lib" movement, the right of abortion on demand, even "kids rights," began to show strength.

One wonders what 1983 will bring, after 19 years of America's ascendancy followed by 19 years of steady erosion of national power and moral integrity. Perhaps the beginning of real troubles?

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau