

PASTOR'S REPORT

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FROM PASTORAL ADMINISTRATION

Dear Fellow Ministers:

Greetings in Jesus' name! All of us are fine here in Pasadena, and looking forward to this Pentecost weekend when we will have the opportunity to see many of you in the field.

I talked to Mr. Herbert Armstrong Sunday morning, and he and his party are now off to Tunisia! He feels this area is especially important as it is going to become quite a center for Arab activities in the near future now that Egypt is being rejected by fellow Arab nations for its peace treaty with Israel. Please pray for their safety and for the success of this trip!

Mr. McMichael just completed the Seattle campaign last night. In spite of the obvious difficulties of being on Memorial Day weekend and having to finish on Monday night because of hall bookings, the team felt the campaign was a fine success! Total attendance ranged from 290 to 450 and new attendance each night was 60, 45, and 50 for the three nights respectively. So while the numbers are not large, God is giving us good, solid attendances and growth through these campaigns!

Fellow ministers, Mr. Armstrong informed me recently that he is definitely ending the whole concept of the non-career ministry. As he stated, he didn't know about it until the last few months and had nothing to do with its inception. He feels it is wrong for a minister to resign from his calling as a minister and yet at the same time want to retain some of the benefits, prestige and authority of the ministry. And although I did not in any way bring this matter to him for a decision, I certainly agree.

Therefore, as finances make possible, we will honor any previous financial commitments made on the 40% base salary per month per number of years served in the ministry. But, any who have resigned or do resign in the future from the active ministry will henceforth be regarded as lay members in God's Church.

If, in particular cases, the local minister in future months and years --after checking with Headquarters--wishes to use one of these men to help counsel or visit, he may do so. But they have resigned from the ministry and will NOT be regarded as elders to anoint, preach, counsel or carry on any other function of the ministry.

Of course, this does not preclude us letting the occasional minister have an extended time off--or even reduced duties because of genuine health problems or other similar problems--or the occasional hiring of someone as a part-time minister in very special cases. If any of you have questions regarding this or suggestions about other special cases, please let us hear from you.

But the "non-career ministry," as such, is NOT a category we feel Christ would want and so God's Apostle is abolishing it.

Let ALL of us sincerely strive to "lay down our lives for our brethren," and desire with all our hearts to serve them, and Him, FULL-time as God makes this possible. Let us appreciate our calling from God and make this calling and election SURE by our constant and faithful service and loyalty! Let us build again the spirit of service and sacrifice that continues to give this Work its unique strength in a dying world.

Let's all draw close to God and be inspired to strengthen and encourage His people this Pentecost weekend.

With Christian love,



Roderick C. Meredith

P.S. This does NOT affect the honor and opportunities for service of our fine local church elders.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Dutch-Speaking Region

Mr. Bram de Bree, Regional Director of the Dutch-speaking Work, reports that the income for that area, comprising the Netherlands and the Flemish part of Belgium, is holding its own at a year-to-date increase of four per cent.

De Echte Waarheid (PT), circulation 18,425, added 1550 subscribers for the year to date. Good News circulation stands at 125, and the CC active list has 1239 students. Baptisms year to date total 5. Total membership is 147, an increase of 15 per cent over one year ago.

In the past year a series of public lectures with follow-up Bible studies were held; Two in the Netherlands and three in Belgium. The result of the lectures in Belgium was very encouraging. In Gent alone, 30 percent of the people who attended the first lecture came back for seven follow-up lectures.

As a result of the enthusiasm in the Dutch-speaking part of Belgium, a regular once-a-month Bible study has been started in Antwerp. The first study took place on May 5th with a total attendance of 31, excluding several visitors from the Tilburg and Bilthoven churches, in the Netherlands.

In addition to an extensive advertising program scheduled for this fall, other public lectures are scheduled for other parts of the Netherlands.

Both churches in the Netherlands are very encouraged by the developments there and have taken a very positive approach to all the difficulties God's Work is presently going through. They all stand solidly behind the Work and its human leader, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong.

Germany

The German office reports a very fine Passover holy day season, with services held in six locations across West Germany, one in Austria and one

in Switzerland. Services were also held at Muehlleithen in East Germany for the first three days, conducted by local deacon Heinz Pistorius and visiting Austrian deacon Helmuth Kaserer. The total offerings were up 9.7 per cent and 19.2 percent respectively over 1978.

As far as the imposition of the Receivership earlier this year is concerned, at present no substantial negative effect has been reported by our local ministers. (Actually, only one case of a member having been really turned off has been reported). The German press has not mentioned the receivership crisis at all, to our knowledge. It is apparently considered an event of purely local American interest.

For various reasons April's incoming mail was down considerably compared to April of last year. However, for the year to date our total mail count, 16,123 letters, is only down 12 per cent compared to last year. Obviously last year's advertising campaign in the German magazines SPIEGEL and BUNTE contributed greatly to the larger volumes of mail last year.

Another possible reason for fewer letters hinges around the poor weather and Easter vacation. Many more people here took advantage of the Easter vacation to get away from the bad weather which has been continually wet and cold all year round for the last two years.

This trend of decreased mail is especially apparent in summer when many readers go on vacation. In April it was unexpected. Another reason for the low mail count is the small number of renewals sent out in April. As a result, renewals sent back amounted to only one sixth of the total mail (363 renewals) in April as compared to one third to one half of the total mail for the first three months of 1979.

In April the annual thank-you-letter was mailed to all who donated in 1978. In the letter were offered booklets, an annual receipt for 1978 donations and a visit. The cash sent with some of the responses has amounted to DM 3.800 (\$2,054) so far, not to mention bank and post office money transfers.

Consequently, booklets sent out in April amounted to more than the previous two months combined--around 3400 booklets.

United Kingdom

Income continues on the up and up. April showed an increase of 13% over the corresponding month last year. The year-to-date increase is 20% over the 1978 figure, with the fiscal year-to-date rise running at 15%. Holy Day offerings have also followed last year's good trend, showing increases of 15% and 9% respectively for the first and last days of Unleavened Bread. Attendance figures were 3,169 and 3,149, with 2,008 taking the Passover (3% up on last year).

Ministerial Move: Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Hegvold are returning to Pasadena at the end of May to take up their respective responsibilities on the faculty. Sincere thanks are due to the Hegvolds for their 5½ years of service during which time Mr. Hegvold has helped to build and strengthen the Dublin Church and Cork Bible study.

Mr. Mark Ellis will now be moving to Dublin, from where he will pastor all three Irish churches--Ballymena, Belfast and Dublin itself--with the help of local elders, Hugh Carton in the North and Brian Bedlow in the South.

April has been a very active month on the promotional front. Our first national newspaper ad in the Daily Mail on March 31st (featuring the booklet "Does God Exist?" and The Plain Truth) was followed by 8 further insertions in April. Largest response so far has come from the April 21st ad for "Why Were You Born?" in the The Sun. Responses stood at just under 6,000 on May 22nd. The most popular booklet on a cost per response basis is "Why Were You Born?"

In the month of April, there was featured at 7 exhibition sites--Southampton, Edinburgh, Manchester, Bristol, Nottingham, Hull and London (Olympia)-- a special Plain Truth display complete with a recorded audio-visual presentation. The object of the display, according to Ernie Winchester, promotions manager responsible for coordinating the exhibition program, "is to explain clearly the aims and content of the magazine and encourage people to become subscribers." In all, over 14,000 leaflets were taken by the public at the exhibitions during April, 4,000 from the London (Olympia) exhibition alone ("Festival for Mind, Body and Spirit"). It was found that people who have been exposed to the display and the audio-visual presentation respond better on the whole than those who merely receive the brochure for the first time in their homes. At Olympia 15,000 booklets were given away--among the most popular were "Is This The End Time?", "Why Were You Born?", "The Modern Romans" and "The Dilemma of Drugs."

Scandinavia

In the early summer of 1978 a detailed study was made of the costs and benefits to God's Work of maintaining an office in Oslo, Norway. Above all the Work wanted to ensure that our Scandinavian readers received good quality service via the most cost-effective means. Although there were obvious benefits in having an office on the spot, we were very conscious that the Scandinavian cost of living is virtually double that of Britain. The conclusion was reached that the benefits to the Work of operating from the U.K. (printing, mailing and editorial facilities, as well as the financial aspect) did outweigh any drawbacks. The money saved (around 20% of the former budget) is now being plowed back into advertising, promotion and translations of booklets and the Correspondence Course.

One of the first fruits of this move to Radlett was an important new advertising program, the first stage of which began on May 5th and is scheduled to continue until the end of June.

Once the Scandinavian Work has built on the current foundation of Plain Truth readership, the intention is to put on subscriber presentations to encourage and feed the people God is calling in Scandinavia. The most likely locations for these would be Stockholm, Oslo and Aarhus, Denmark (pronounced Orhoos), where the three Scandinavian churches meet twice a month, and Helsinki, where Bible studies are held. Currently, Mr. Peter Shenton, pastor of the East Anglian churches in England, visits the area once a month to conduct a service and counsel the brethren and prospective members.

ATTORNEY GENERAL WITHDRAWS OBJECTION TO INDIVIDUAL SURETIES

Our readers will recall that in March a California judge reimposed a receivership on the Church knowing full well that the Church would appeal to a higher court. Thus the judge made a requirement that the Church post a \$1 million money bond as assurance to the court and the state that the people of California would not suffer loss. Of course, this is absurd since the Church does not belong to the state or people of California. Nevertheless, California brethren signed individual pledges making a cumulative total of well over \$3 million dollars! These pledges were legal under California law and met the need for a bond to keep the receiver out pending a decision on the appeal.

The Attorney General had hoped that the Church would not be able to raise the money bond in the allotted time so he could obtain unbridled access to all Church information by means of a new receiver. But the Attorney General, in his own words, was "stymied" by the bond which the brethren made possible. Even so, at the last moment he exercised his option to contest each individual surety for possible inadequacies.

Now the Attorney General has withdrawn his objection to the individual pledges. It is the opinion of the attorneys for the Church, however, that the primary reason for the Attorney General withdrawing his objection is an effort to undermine the Church's petition for a hearing by the U.S. Supreme Court. His basis for undermining the petition is the argument that, since the receiver is "stayed" (neutralized) by the sureties, there is no urgent need for the U.S. Supreme Court to hear the Church's case at this time, thus keeping the case in California courts for the time being.

No matter how the Attorney General of California wants to color the issues in the case, the Church vs. State confrontation is most extraordinary and deserving the attention of the highest court in the land--the sooner the better.

PUBLISHING SERVICES UPDATE

While travelling around the country I have frequently taken the time to visit local public libraries and to my dismay I have found anti-church literature readily available, but only on rare occasions anything, in anyway, positive. Only once or twice I have found a well-worn copy of the "Autobiography."

Now we all have a great opportunity to help put the most important book since the Bible, in our local libraries. Generally a library will NOT approve a book just because it is free or someone gives it to them, nor will they buy every book advertised by mail. A library, especially local public libraries, serve the community by providing the kinds of materials their patrons are most interested in reading.

If one or more individuals within a community ask their local librarian to obtain a specific title, they will recognize a definite need and possibly will purchase copies. Consequently, I suggest that we check with our local libraries and ask for Mr. Armstrong's book, The Incredible Human Potential, published by Everest House.

Once it is there, others will read it too!

--Roger Lippross

NEW EDITION OF BOOKLET INTRODUCES GOD'S CHURCH

I have just been instructed by Mr. Armstrong to kill the booklet titled Where is God's True Church Today? It will be replaced by the new printing of his booklet, This is the Worldwide Church of God, which is now in production. This new booklet (copy the same as the series in the PT) has been advertised in the Los Angeles Times ad and on the TV special that was mentioned in the last Pastor's Report.

The June/July PT is now off the press and looking good. We hope it will be a winner. Some copy for the August PT has already been sent to Mr. Armstrong for his editing and approval.

--Brian Knowles, Editorial Services

WORLDWIDE NEWS DELAYED

As some of you may have noticed, the last issue of The Worldwide News has not reached you yet. Our issue datelined May 21 has been delayed in printing by almost a full week due to a paper shortage caused by a paper mill strike of the past few months. Although the strike has been settled, there is currently a severe shortage of newsprint because the mills' stocks were exhausted during the strike and they have yet to catch up with the current demand. We hope the situation will ease somewhat by our next printing date, but we won't know for sure until then. Publication dates of The Worldwide News may even be sporadic for a while. Meanwhile, please bear with us and explain the situation to your congregations.

--D.H. Faulkner, WN

ON THE WORLD SCENE

Focus on Europe: Greece to Join EEC; Pope to Travel; Europe to the Polls-- On Monday May 28, Greece formally signed the Treaty of Accession with the European Economic Community which will make it the Common Market's tenth member on January 1, 1981. Greece's acceptance came after tough negotiations of more than two years and will not come into force until the above date in order to allow for ratification by the parliaments of the other nine countries.

The treaty was signed by Greek Premier Konstantin Karamanlis. French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing signed on behalf of the Community. Karamanlis, who has worked for his country's entry for 18 years was ecstatic over the successful culmination of his efforts.

"At this moment, I am personally overwhelmed by deep emotion," Karamanlis said. "A steady vision and an unswerving belief in the necessity of a United Europe and in the European destiny of my country have at long last, after 18 years, found their justification... She (Greece) joins you in the struggle for the creation of a new Europe which will change the destiny of our continent and, perhaps, of the world."

The Premier said that despite the slow movement toward a United Europe, important steps have been taken including the upcoming elections for a European parliament and the establishment of a European Monetary System.

"We have decided to be all Europeans as Churchill would have said and to be all Greeks, as Shelly would have put it," Karamanlis said. "For to cite Isocrates, 'Greeks are not those born Greek but those who adopted the classical spirit.'"

Karmanlis believes that entry into the EEC will consolidate Greek democratic institutions and ward off the likelihood of another military dictatorship, because under the Community's founding document, the Treaty of Rome, a non-democratic country would be expelled.

Community president Roy Jenkins remarked he hoped the current negotiations with Spain and Portugal will end "as successfully as those with Greece. The enlargement to twelve must not be allowed to weaken or dilute the Community."

Papal Trip, Euro-elections

The move by Greece comes at a time of increased political activity in Europe. On June 2, Pope John Paul II will embark on an eight-day trip to Poland--the first visit ever by a pope behind the Iron Curtain. Crowds in Warsaw, Krakow and other Polish cities are expected to be heavy.

Then, on June 7 and 10 voters in the nine EEC countries will go to the polls to choose, for the first time, directly-elected candidates to the enlarged and strengthened European Parliament. The campaign has drawn some of Europe's leading political figures. For example, former Chancellor Willy Brant, heads the Socialists' list in Germany and former Prime Minister Leo Tindemans is running for election in Belgium. The leading conservative candidate is Otto von Habsburg, who is running for a seat from Bavaria. Dr. Von Habsburg, while now a West German citizen, also retains his Austrian citizenship.

The entrance of Greece into the EEC--Greece being the cradle of European civilization--the papal trip to eastern Europe, the Euro-elections and the von Habsburg candidacy all have an interesting tie-in.

On April 5, a delegation of current representatives from the European Parliament was granted a papal audience. Interestingly enough, Dr. von Habsburg was included in the delegation. The pope, reported the April 6 issue of Europe Agence Internationale (a daily review of European events), pointed out to his visitors that they did not represent the whole of Europe, which was well beyond the frontiers of the EEC. The Pope told them that the idea of the whole of Europe should be promoted during the forthcoming elections, which should be regarded as a first stage in a long process of integration.

A few days later, in the April 27 issue of Europe Agence Internationale, editor Emanuele Gazzo wrote that Pope John Paul II, in speaking to the Parliamentarians, "enlarged on a theme which obviously lies within the Church's universal perspective, but of which the present Pope is particularly aware (he spoke of it in texts drafted when he was Bishop of Kracow), the question of Europe's frontiers, frontiers which do not coincide with those of the present Europe. It is clear that in his opinion there is hardly any sense in thinking of State frontiers: it is rather a question of 'evangelisation' frontiers. We know moreover that the 'episcopal conferences' of Europe override artificial barriers between East and West."

"To The Borders of Russia"

The concept of a greater, historic, "Christian" Europe is also very much the thinking of Dr. Von Habsburg. The oldest son of the last Austrian chancellor was interviewed in the February 19, 1979 issue of der Spiegel. Here are the key excerpts:

"Spiegel: Nevertheless you are going to be the only Austrian in Strassburg.

"Habsburg: ...please, this is going to sound very conceited now, and I do not want to be understood that way, but naturally one has to, if one wants to be a Europe-parliamentarian, to stand up for all of Europe.

"Spiegel: Not only for the Europe of the Nine?

"Habsburg: No, absolutely not. The Europe of the Nine is a starting point. Just like the Italian unification in the 19th century started with part of a state, Piedmont, so shall the greater Europe evolve later from this Europe of the nine.

"Spiegel: Up to the Ural (mountains)?

"Habsburg: No, never. I have always been against the Urals, because I have always been of the opinion that Russia is a different continent. /A reference to DeGaulle, who preached of a Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals.

"Spiegel: Where, then, does your Europe end?

"Habsburg: It extends to the borders of Russia.

"Spiegel: Does that mean that you intend to expel the Soviets from Eastern Europe?

"Habsburg: That means, that we have a feeling of solidarity for the Europeans on the other side of the Yalta line, that we have to stand up for the right of self-determination of these Europeans with all peaceful means. It is for us an unbearable thought that decolonization is applicable exclusively for Africa and Asia and not also for Europe."

--Gene H. Hogsberg, News Bureau