

PASTOR'S REPORT

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Which Shall We Obey?....

The C I V I L GOVERNMENT OR G O D ' S ?

Certain dissident voices have been raised, since January 3, deceiving God's people about obeying the government of MAN!

by Herbert W. Armstrong

DO WE UNDERSTAND that the GOVERNMENT OF GOD once ruled the entire earth?

Do we understand that Satan's major thrust is to turn us against the GOVERNMENT OF GOD? That God's government is based on THE LAW OF GOD, and the LAW OF GOD is predominant in the Bible from Genesis to Revelation?

Do we REALLY understand that THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD is at this moment being administered on the earth in ONE PLACE ONLY--in the WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD? Do we realize that GOD HIMSELF raised up this era of His Church, even though He used His chosen apostle, and that it is NOT, in any way, the government of MAN?

Do we realize that the one prime point Satan uses to keep YOU out of God's Kingdom is to attack THE LAW OF GOD, which is the foundation of the GOVERNMENT OF GOD?

Do you realize that the civil governments of man, masterminded by Satan, have ALWAYS fought against the law or government of GOD?

There comes a time when you have to decide WHERE ARE YOUR LOYALTIES? One such time was January 3 and immediately following. Some very few ministers shouted out words to the effect that "WE MUST OBEY THE GOVERNMENT OF MAN, N O T THE CHURCH OF GOD!"

In the history of mankind on earth we have come down to the FINAL QUESTION: WHO IS LORD?--CAESAR, OR C H R I S T ?

YOU HAVE TO DECIDE--even as the Pharisees, the Sadducees and the Scribes had to decide between Barabbas and CHRIST! There is today just ONE CHURCH ONLY, where the GOVERNMENT OF GOD is being administered--and that is in the WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD!

It's time we GET THIS STRAIGHT! Satan has been using some to teach you FALSELY!

What was Jesus' teaching? What was His EXAMPLE? Some have been putting a TWIST on that and causing division in God's Church.

Take time to UNDERSTAND your position in relation to the GOVERNMENT OF MAN and also your relationship to the GOVERNMENT OF GOD!

The government of GOD did once rule the earth. This was before Adam was created! God placed a super archangel, the Cherub LUCIFER on the throne of the whole world, then inhabited by angels! How long GOD'S GOVERNMENT was administered we do not know. But this Lucifer, the highest, most powerful and mighty being God could create, next to Himself, was PERFECT in all his ways, UNTIL iniquity (LAW TRANSGRESSION) was found in him (Ezek. 28:15). Now he is SATAN the DEVIL! And he is deceiving some of God's simple and trusting people on this very matter of GOVERNMENT!

Many times recently I have mentioned that if you tune in your TV set on a movie that is two-thirds over, not knowing what went before and led up to the point you tuned in, you do not really understand what you are seeing.

So take time to get this exceedingly brief BACKGROUND. After Lucifer had become SATAN the arch-deceiver, God created the first humans--Adam and Eve. They rejected the GOVERNMENT OF GOD, and God drove them out of Eden, and barred them and all humans to be born from and after them from access to God (Gen. 3:22-24), except the VERY FEW God has specially called.

For some 6,000 years mankind has lived under GOVERNMENTS OF MAN influenced by SATAN and CUT OFF FROM GOD!

Yet, even so, man, in his personal life is commanded to BE SUBJECT TO (not always to OBEY) the government of man. It is true that the New Testament tells us that, in the regular course of each person's life, he is to be SUBJECT TO the human civil laws and governmental powers over him. The Church of God has always taught that.

But being "subject to" does not of itself mean "OBEY." When it comes to killing in war, a drafted man may be "SUBJECT TO" man's law by submitting to the PENALTY of man's law! Thus he may "BE SUBJECT TO" the law of man, while OBEYING GOD rather than man.

Now look to the example set and the teaching of Jesus. He said (Matt. 22:21) "Render unto Caesar the things that ARE Caesar's, and unto God the things that are God's."

HUMAN GOVERNMENT has ALWAYS persecuted God and those who follow God's ways. In Jesus' day, Judea was part of the Roman Empire. Although the Roman government kept a small contingent of soldiers there, and a Roman governor or local king, they delegated all the more minor administration of Roman government to the sects of the Pharisees and Sadducees. So the Pharisees actually were the government of MAN.

When they sought to take Jesus and put Him to death, He escaped among the crowd--because His time to be crucified had not yet come. Jesus did not meekly turn the other cheek, and say, "Here I am. Take me and destroy me." You read in Matthew 12:14, "Then the Pharisees went out, and held a council against him, HOW THEY MIGHT DESTROY HIM"!

This is precisely what happened on January 2nd, this year, 1979, in secret in the chambers of Judge Pacht in Los Angeles. It was a secret council on HOW HUMAN GOVERNMENT COULD D E S T R O Y the very Church of the living GOD!

What did Jesus do? Did He "turn the other cheek?" Did He say, "I must under all circumstances OBEY the human government of MAN"? No! The next verse says, "But when Jesus knew it, he withdrew himself from thence." Another time these representatives of the government of MAN sought to take Jesus, in a crowd, to DESTROY Him, but Jesus slipped out among the crowd and escaped from them. WHY? Did not Jesus finally submit to crucifixion? Surely! But He had planned this final crucifixion with God the Father, even before the world was. He escaped from them because "His time was not yet come." He only submitted to the government of MAN when the time had come that was planned between God and the future Christ even before the world was. Until then, HE RESISTED THE CIVIL GOVERNMENT OF MAN even as HIS CHURCH has done in our day!

How did Jesus speak to their representatives of the GOVERNMENT OF MAN?

He said to them, "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites..." And again, "Woe unto you, ye blind guides"... "Ye fools and BLIND."... "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees," "Ye blind guides," "Woe unto you, scribes, Pharisees, hypocrites, for ye are like whited sepulchres...." "Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?..." (Matt. 23).

Some would teach you that Jesus was wrong--that He should have "turned the other cheek," and submitted.

Some asked Jesus regarding obeying MAN'S law, or GOD'S law. Jesus said, "Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to GOD the things that are GOD'S."

The headquarters buildings and property of the Worldwide Church of God are GOD'S--not Caesars! The government of the State of California was trying to TAKE OVER, and STEAL the campus and buildings that ARE GOD'S! They are dedded in GOD'S NAME! God's NAME is inlaid in prominent letters in the Auditorium which is the HOUSE OF GOD!

Mark you this, and mark it WELL! At no time did God's Church or its Pasadena brethren VIOLATE ANY LAW! Had the government of California, under the action of the Attorney General, come to arrest Mr. Rader or me, on a charge of "pilfering," and "siphoning off millions of dollars to our own use," we would have submitted voluntarily, and then, in court PROVED that the charge was FALSE! But they did not come with any warrant! We had violated no law! We DID NOT in any manner ATTACK the men representing the State of California.

WHAT ACTUALLY DID HAPPEN?

Officers from the Attorney General's office and deputies came without any definite CHARGES, swooping down without even the legally required advance NOTICE, INVADING GOD'S PROPERTY AND FACILITIES! They came on trumped-up, baseless charges, on a fishing expedition, to seize books and records, HOPING that they might find some evidence, records, or CAUSE, to bring definite charges against us! At least that is what they were SUPPOSED to be unexpectedly invading GOD'S premises for!

But they found no evidence against either Mr. Rader or myself because there is no such evidence--no such things were ever done by us!

When we remember Jesus' statement, "Render unto Caesar the things that ARE Caesar's and unto GOD the things that ARE God's"--we were 100% in OBEDIENCE! We had to protect properties BELONGING TO GOD, in order to RENDER UNTO GOD THE GREAT COMMISSION TO WHICH HE HAS CALLED US. We raised no gun, sword, or weapon of any kind against the State.

WE BROKE NO LAW!--but THE STATE DID BREAK THE LAW--and the very Constitution--the basic law of our country, violating its FIRST AMENDMENT! We are NOT "lawbreakers"--but the State of California through its Attorney General's office IS!

God said to Adam and Eve, in effect: "You have made the decision for all your posterity for the 6,000 years of the time I have allotted to MAN! You have REJECTED my GOVERNMENT. You have rejected me as the Source of basic knowledge. You have rejected me as your GOD, and chosen SATAN WHO NOW SHALL BE THE 'GOD OF THIS WORLD' (II Cor. 4:4).

"Therefore GO, and form your own governments, your own religions, create your own fund of KNOWLEDGE and devise your own way of disseminating that FASLE knowledge to your oncoming generations!"

So we have the GOVERNMENT OF MAN, swayed and formed under SATAN THE DEVIL! But remember this: In MAN'S GOVERNMENTS, formed under SATAN'S sway, even Satan knows that in HIS world, if it is to stand at all, there must be laws against breaking SOME of God's Ten Commandments, such as stealing and murder. Satan APPEARS as an "angel of light." He must APPEAR to be righteous before his deceived world!

So, MAN'S LAWS do protect the majority against evils against itself. Therefore God's teaching to us is this:

We, as GOD'S OWN PEOPLE, have come out of this world. We are not part of it. We do not vote or participate in its government in any way. We must live IN it, but we must NOT be OF it. Yet we are to stand loyally back of Christ's chosen apostle in carrying Jesus' Gospel MESSAGE of the KINGDOM (government) of GOD to the world--not to convert the world, but to be a WITNESS FOR ALL NATIONS (Matt. 24:14).

Meanwhile, though not OF this world, yet living IN it, we are to be SUBJECT, in our individual lives, to its government. Yet we are to be, first of all, SUBJECT TO CHRIST (Eph. 5:24). Where it is a matter of disobeying GOD if we obey man's government, we OBEY GOD, and if need be, suffer whatever PENALTY man's government imposes.

Should Christians ALWAYS obey MAN rather than God? Millions were put to death, honored in the Bible as the MARTYRS OF JESUS long ago. And, according to Revelation 6:9-11, there will very soon be ANOTHER mass martyrdom of God's people.

But Revelation 12:14 and 3:10 show that this Church shall ESCAPE the soon-coming martyrdom of saints and be taken to a place of SAFETY, during the coming GREAT TRIBULATION.

Let's be SURE we obey Christ FIRST!

FROM PASTORAL ADMINISTRATION

Dear Fellow Ministers:

Greetings from Pasadena! Mr. Herbert Armstrong visited the S.E.P. camp up in Orr this weekend, and I have already heard from some of the young people that he did a great job and everyone was very encouraged.

Messrs. Luker and Burk McNair are out of town to conduct area conferences in their respective regions and Mr. Dean Blackwell is now completing his move to Pasadena. So, no one is here but us "chickens."

A minor request I want to give you before going on is our desire that you forward to the News Bureau any outstanding articles about world news in prophecy or related information from your local newspaper. Be sure to put the name of the paper and the date on the clipping before you send it in, so it will have more validity. This should make our news coverage even more profound and serve the Work and all of us better in that way.

Mr. Luker and I had a very fine visit with Mr. Herbert Armstrong last Thursday afternoon and were able to cover a number of points regarding church plans and growth. We will not now announce these new programs and "jump the gun" until we have them fully developed. But, we will start to implement some of these programs on a "pilot basis" within the next several weeks and see how they go. Suffice it to say that fine new opportunities and challenges are in the offing!

This Sabbath here in the P.M. Church, Mr. Dibar Apartian and I were very happy to be able to ordain Ray Clore as a local elder in God's Church. He is an American, an Ambassador College graduate, and has been servicing faithfully and holding God's people together in Haiti even while he served as Vice Counsel there for the U.S. State Department. Now that his time for transfer has come up, he asked Mr. Apartian: "Where do you think I should ask to be transferred? Where can I serve the Church the most?"

Since Ray speaks French very well, Mr. Apartian recommended the Camerouns in Africa.

Expecting the normal request for a second assignment to be in a "nicer" area, Ray's superiors were astonished when he asked if there was an opening in the Camerouns. They said: "Of course! There is always an opening in a place like that but why do you want to go there?"

In this way, Ray Clore has set a fine example for all of us. As a white, middle-class American with a beautiful young wife and one-year-old baby, he and his wife are willing to go virtually "anywhere" they can safely go to serve God and his people--and at their own expense, for he is not on salary from us!

Would to God more of us had THIS type of attitude!

And that brings me to the main point I want to mention in this letter. In my recent visits with Mr. Armstrong, he has made it very clear that his main concern now, is to "clean up God's Church" and to prepare the Church as an unblemished bride to marry Christ!

Fellows, I hope all of us can join God's apostle in this effort with all of our united strength! We all need to preach more sermons to help the Church to grow in every way "unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." We need to emphasize this total yielding to God in every phase and facet of life.

For too many years, we have had large sections of brethren and even our ministry who were not really CONQUERED by God! Those individuals often believe most of the truth, and seem to "go along with us" when things are pleasant and stable. But one "key" to their attitude is that they will "bristle" when they are corrected. They will generally NOT accept strong correction or any type of demotion without a "fight" or even their resignation from the ministry and/or the Church.

In a word, they are SELF-willed!

Now, the Living Christ is allowing all kinds of trials to come on us in order to see if these people truly are converted--CONQUERED by God. Perhaps Christ is even using some of the difficulties we are passing through to see if you and I are willing to look beyond the immediate human element in ANY situation and recognize that CHRIST really is alive and in charge, over all of the Church and Work most of us have been a part of for many years.

Yes, He does allow us to make mistakes--and I have certainly made my share--but he guides and orchestrates the MAJOR direction of everything in the Church and He is the active HEAD!

This fact is of supreme importance to us, fellows, and I hope all of you will deeply study the Bible as outlined last week, and PRAY constantly and fervently to keep in personal touch with our God and our living Head and Savior at His right hand.

Mr. Armstrong has, in fact, stated that he wants all of us ministers to join him in doing just this! Personally, I know that when I don't pray to God on my knees for at least 30 minutes a day--I don't grow spiritually. True, I may not "fall away" or retrogress too far, but God is not as REAL to me if I don't study the Bible regularly and pray daily and fervently.

Fellows, I know that all of you have probably preached entire sermons on this subject of prayer. But, as Mr. Armstrong has said: "we must be a praying ministry!"

And in many cases, even though we know about prayer, we obviously have NOT been as close to God as we should have been as God's own ministers. Otherwise, the heavy drinking, gambling, cursing, dirty jokes and illicit sex, broken marriages and "broken" attitudes would NEVER have occurred among us.

So let's all respond! Let's all use Mr. Armstrong's admonition as a trumpet call to battle ourselves and sincerely draw close to God. Let's "pray...lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting" (I Tim. 2:8). Let us pour out our hearts--sometimes with sincere TEARS in our eyes as our Savior did (Heb. 5:7). And, let us, like Epaphras be "always laboring FERVENTLY for (one another) in prayers that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God (Col. 4:12). This total communion with our

Creator is the real source of the POWER we will receive to clean up the Church, finish the Work and, together, enter the very Kingdom of God.

So let's make a CRUSADE of this, fellow ministers. Let's preach and teach about it. Counsel and encourage the brethren about it, and make this a fervently praying Church more than ever before! And let's start out by setting the example and doing it ourselves.

With Christian love,



Roderick C. Meredith

MR. ARMSTRONG VISITS S.E.P. CAMPUS, BEGINS RECORDING WATS LINE MESSAGES

Sabbath, July 7th, Mr. Armstrong flew to Orr, Minnesota to speak to the teenagers attending S.E.P. It was Mr. Armstrong's first visit since 1970, and Mr. Armstrong was amazed at the changes which had taken place at the Orr campus. After the brief tour of the facilities, Mr. Armstrong was warmly greeted by all. Students and adults gave a standing ovation of appreciation as Mr. Armstrong entered the building as well as when he got on stage. All were attentive throughout the sermon, and a tape of Mr. Armstrong's message is being sent out to all the congregations.

Mr. Armstrong has also begun making the WATS line taped messages so that everyone can hear what is going on at headquarters. The first tape, made on board the G-II during the return trip from Orr last Saturday, is the first of the once-a-week news tapes he will be doing. The telephone numbers for the tape are the same as before for those outside of California, Alaska and Hawaii (800-423-4444). Those three states should call (213) 577-5225.

Those calling should call during normal business hours and please let the operator know who you are. Some have had deacons or local leading men call in to record the message which is fine. If they would tell the operator who they are or who they are calling for it would be appreciated. Anyone you feel should call in, by all means feel free to let them. The only problem would be if the lines become too busy, in which case those tabulating telephone response will let us know. The code number for the tape messages will remain the same. As Mr. Armstrong finds the time, perhaps the tapes will become bi-weekly. However, with Mr. Armstrong working harder than ever, his schedule may not permit the "two-a-week" series.

--Kevin Dean, Public Information Office

NEW OFFICE IN TUCSON DEDICATED

Thursday of last week, July 5th, Mr. George McFarland and I went to Tucson to open and dedicate the new mail opening facility. Messrs. Rod Meredith and Dennis Luker happened to be traveling with us to see Mr. Armstrong, and also attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony which marked the move into permanent office quarters.

The new office is centrally located with easy access to the post office and other business connections. It is of moderate size, allowing a close

working relationship between employees--but has the capacity for possible expansion in the future.

The new mail opening office is simply an extension of, and under the auspices of, the Mail Processing Center here in Pasadena. The same procedures which we have used for years with Mr. Armstrong's approval will be used there. And, the same basic training program we use here has prepared the personnel there. At present, there are about 10 people working in the Tucson office.

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ATTORNEY GENERAL FORCED TO ADMIT HE HAD AN AUDIT ALL ALONG!

Since the beginning of the year, the Attorney General has resisted in court all of our attorneys' efforts to obtain a list of the various Church documents that have been in his possession. Finally, several weeks ago the Attorney General was ordered by the court to produce such a list. Consequently, on Friday afternoon, June 29, Church officials did receive the court ordered list. The papers furnished by the Attorney General revealed that he has had in his possession 819 different documents, some of which are 24 to 50 pages in length!

"These documents include the very financial records which the State from the outset has claimed that it needs for the audit it seeks," commented Mr. Rader in a statement July 4th, "and, indeed, are the very records that the State has accused the Church of shredding and destroying. Thus, from the outset of this action the Attorney General has had, albeit by theft, his audit."

As an example of what Mr. Rader is talking about, the Attorney General has copies of the Work's certified financial statements going back more than 10 years. He also has copies of various tax returns and information returns filed by the Church, College or Foundation going back ten years or more. In addition, the Attorney General has copies of all of Mr. Jack Kessler's audit working papers which go into great detail for each of the years that Mr. Kessler (the Church's outside auditor) and/or others have audited the Work.

"Similarly," continues Mr. Rader, "he /the Attorney General/ has never had to worry about document destruction /since he already possessed the information he "needs"/. It is clear, therefore, that this /the state's/ entire action is a fraud, a charade designed solely to establish state sovereignty over the Church, and benefiting the dissident 'relators' in the process. Watergate pales beside this massive dishonesty in government."

The Work of God will not stand by and be victimized at the cost of our freedoms, Mr. Rader announced. "Our legal counsel are in the process of preparing and will file our own massive suit to regain possession of our documents and for damages resulting from their theft. We will vindicate our right to worship freely and in peace. We will not allow the State's naked assertion of power to be sanctioned or to go unpunished. With your continued support, the Work /of God/ will be done."

(Editor's Note: Nearly all the rest of Mr. Rader's July 4th statement was published verbatim in the evening edition of the July 5th Pasadena Star-News, as well as in the morning edition of the 6th. We have reproduced that article in this issue of the MEMBER'S HOTLINE for you interest.)

Rader charges document grab by state illegal, says suit due

Stanley R. Rader, treasurer of the Worldwide Church of God, on Wednesday charged officials of the attorney general's office with a "crazed assertion of raw power" by concealing the possession of 819 documents he said belonged to the church.

Rader has maintained that the state acted illegally on Jan. 3 in putting a receiver in the church in January.

Rader told his audience in the Fourth of July address that the church will file suit to regain possession of the documents, which he claims were stolen, and for damages resulting from their theft.

A partial text of Rader's statement to church members follows:

"Yesterday marked the six-month anniversary of the state's assault on the church and its leaders. Thanks to your unwavering support we have been able to

withstand this heinous onslaught. As a result, today we remain strong, united, and firm in our conviction that the work will continue to go forward unfettered by the imposition of governmental authority.

"New developments have confirmed what we knew to be the case: that the state's actions have been the product of wild, baseless accusations combined with a monstrous abuse of power by government . . .

"Events of the last few days have conclusively demonstrated that state officials have lied, cheated, and stolen in furtherance of their crazed assertion of raw power, and have violated every constitutional guarantee of religious freedom in the process.

"Last Friday, we received, pursuant to court order, a list of 819 documents belonging to the Church which the state has in its possession. These documents

were stolen from the church by the state and/or others, and include ecclesiastical documents, communications between the church and its lawyers, communications between Mr. (Herbert) Armstrong and other church leaders, and other documents which the Constitution and laws of this country forbid the state to possess . . .

"Moreover, these documents include the very financial records which the state from the outset has claimed that it needs for the audit it seeks, and, indeed are the very records that the state has accused the church of shredding and destroying. Thus, from the outset of this action the attorney general had, albeit by theft, his audit . . .

"We will not allow the state's naked assertion of power to be sanctioned or to go unpunished. With your continued support, the Work will be done."

(The above article appeared in the evening edition of the July 5th Pasadena Star-News, as well as in the morning edition of the 6th.)

Editor's Note: As we go to press this evening of the 11th, we've received word from Mr. Rader that the Church has filed suit today in Pasadena Municipal Court for the recovery of the 819 documents mentioned above. Also, Mr. Jack Kessler will be filing a suit for the return of hundreds of documents that were taken from his office.

SLOWER MAIL SERVICE

We recently did a survey to track the postmark dates on envelopes as they came in to our office. The results show that the bulk of the mail now arrives within 3-5 days of postmark. When holidays or holydays intervene, you can add two days to that average (5-7). While we still receive some mail within a day or two, some takes as long as 10-15 days.

If you have material which needs to reach us by a certain date, please give the letter a little extra time to make the journey. Also, realize that our response time is going to be a little slower.

It's not likely that mail service is going to get any better, so take the longer mailing times into account for all future mailings.

--Ted Herlofson, Ministerial Services

PUBLISHING SERVICES UPDATE

The Good News magazine was brought back to life again by Mr. Herbert Armstrong in January of this year. It's about time for an update. The magazine is printed locally here in Los Angeles and is trucked back to our own mailing department here in Pasadena where Eric Shaw and his crew handle the labeling and work with the U.S. Post Office so that readers get their copy as soon as possible.

The circulation is holding at around 113,000 worldwide. This is because of the present policy of offering the Good News to members and co-workers only. The breakdown is as follows: the 83,000 U.S. copies are sent to 32,000 member households and 46,000 to co-workers. The remaining 30,000 go to our overseas readership and are shipped out from Pasadena each month.

We have been relatively successful with the use of bind-in literature request cards. The cards are at the moment pulling an average 10 times better than a booklet advertisement using a cut-out coupon. We have been getting an 8-10 percent response to the cards which shows that even members of God's Church respond better--just like the average reader--when a separate card or envelope is stitched into the magazine. The card makes requesting a booklet easier than using a cut-out coupon, or having to write a letter of request. Dexter Faulkner, the managing editor of the Good News, and I have felt for some time that members would read more of the new literature that was coming out if we made it easier for them to respond to our offers. Those bind-in cards seem to be proving the point. Members are a relatively untapped source of booklet readership.

--Roger Lippross, Publishing Services Director

INTERNATIONAL NEWSGuyana

It has been only for the last three years that the brethren in Guyana have been able to meet regularly. In October 1975, British-born Paul Krautmann went to Guyana and began assisting with the Church in his spare time. Formerly, Mr. Stan Bass would visit Guyana once or twice a year, meeting and counseling with the people who were responding, in most cases, to the WORLD TOMORROW broadcast over a local radio station.

Since 1972, however, there has been no radio broadcast and no concerted effort to reach the people in Guyana. In spite of this, the number of subscribers to the PLAIN TRUTH has been rising steadily, purely as a result of word of mouth.

Now, with 55 baptized members, the Church in Guyana will undoubtedly make a dramatic increase in its influence upon this former British colony of 63,000 square miles. There are now about 2300 people who receive the PT every month. In addition, the Police Department in Georgetown has requested 500 copies each of our booklets on crime and drugs. They have also requested 400 copies of several other booklets. Mr. Krautmann speaks to various schools on the laws of success and the causes of crime; this results in many booklet requests. An article on crime, in which the crime booklet was advertised, pulled in more than 80 requests.

Canada

We have some excellent news this month on the income of the Work here in Canada. June shows a 12% increase, giving a year-to-date increase of 8%.

The English language ad campaign is continuing to pull responses as we get into the summer months. Since March, we have recorded 3220 responses of which 206 are newsstand responses. These are early responses and we are looking to a substantial increase in this figure over the next few months.

Proportionately, the French people in Quebec are responding in greater numbers than their English-speaking Canadian counterparts. This is clearly seen in the latest ad response statistics where French language media have produced 4887 responses since March to date.

Several reasons can be advanced for the difference in response: the French people in Quebec are more responsive to free offers which concern the family; their interest in religion stems from Catholicism which many have rejected, but which still has a strong underlying influence. A booklet like Is There A Real Hell Fire? has, therefore, a stronger appeal in French Quebec than it does in English-speaking Canada. The fact that French Canada has not been so well blanketed by our radio and T.V. programs or ad campaigns in past years also makes for higher response levels.

For the first time in several months, the subscription files show an increase. Circulation figures are:

The Plain Truth	58,970
La Pure Verite	22,907
The Good News	8,807

We are actively planning our fall ad campaigns this month, gearing up for a newspaper insert test promotion in September. It will consist of a 4-page promotional piece advertising The Plain Truth and will be carried by newspapers in the following countrywide areas: Prince George, Red Deer, North Battleford, Peterborough, and Moncton. These towns have been selected as being representative of Canada's differing regions and results should provide a valid overall reading for future planning.

The newsstand program continues to expand--200,000 copies will go on display in July now that Calgary, Saskatoon, North Battleford, Regina and Moose Jaw have established distribution outlets.

July is, of course, time for field and sabbatical transfers. Mr. and Mrs. Bob Fahey and family have arrived. Mr. Fahey will be Area Co-ordinator for the British Columbia region and has already begun a tour of the churches in his area. Mr. and Mrs. Larry Greider will be moving to the Vancouver Church area from Barrie, Ontario in the next few weeks to become Pastor of the Vancouver Church and to coordinate Y.O.U. and Y.E.S. programs from the office.

--Compiled by Rod Matthews, International Office

"BAD LANGUAGE" IN CHURCH?

(Editor's Note: The following letter from two of our members was passed on to us for possible use in the Pastor's Report. We think you'll enjoy its humorous ending as much as we did.)

Dear Mr. Rader:

One thing this recent legal action against the Church has done is to bring you out into the spotlight where we can see you, and therefore, begin to appreciate your work and effort and fine accomplishments that you're giving to the Church.

As you know, before all this came to light there were many rumors and stories; Rader this or Rader that, going about thru the Church. The only thing I could say when I would hear one of them is I really don't know anything about Mr. Rader. Even our minister said the same, but now we all do know quite a bit about you, and it is quite a good feeling to know we have such a fine and capable man on our team.

I just finished reading "Forum with Stanley Rader" from the May 3rd Q & A out of the June 11th Worldwide News. At the end you mentioned some people objecting to your terminology with Mike Wallace on 60 minutes. Well, did you hear the story about the youngster who was sitting on the front step of his house when the local minister happened by?

The minister thought it would be a good time to encourage the boy to come to church, and engaged him in conversation. The minister said, "Why is it Johnny that I have not seen you in services at church?" John replied, "There's too much bad language used there and I don't like to listen to it." Said the minister (slightly perturbed), "Come to services and if you hear me use any profane language I'll give you 10 dollars."

The next day at services sat Johnny in the front row and as the minister was enthusiastically delivering his sermon about how God is in our lives, the minister stated "By God we live, and by God we die." Up stands Johnny and shouts out, "And 'by God' you owe me ten dollars!"

Sincerely,
Mr. and Mrs. Louis Muench

"BACK TO THE BASICS"

(Editor's Note: The following personal opinion appeared in the June 18th edition of the Evening Independent of St. Petersburg, Florida. Although we can't uphold the man's profession, his point about getting back to basic Constitutional law is certainly well taken.)

Back To The Basics

Editor:

Is it too early to say "I told you so," or, does a large "advertisement" on page 6-A of the May 26 *Independent* deem it indeed timely? — "Attorney General Declares: All Church Assets And Records Are Public Property."

The most pertinent points in my reading the "advertisement" was the relating of how this proclamation came about: Six dissident ex-members filed suit alleging (untrue) financial misconduct on the part of Herbert W. Armstrong, pastor general, and Stanley R. Rader, his personal adviser, but only after a judge advised them the action would result in a paralyzing receivership.

Gestapo-type takeover was effected by law enforcement officers with no warning whatsoever, and to clear themselves (they'd better hope) will require intervention by the U.S. Supreme Court. Armstrong complained several times of how his and the church's constitutional rights were flouted.

The entire piece bore a striking similarity to my letter of May 11, entitled "Porno Charade." I pointed up a local lower court's insensitivity to the constitutional rights of people; our 34th St. Adult Theater is closed; 2,000-3,000 people (per week) are deprived of viewing what they wish, and I am out of a job.

I said the pieces were similar, because I

am again reminded of one Nicholas von Hoffman, who wrote, "No one knows how to draft a law that will protect your free speech without protecting the producers of crime propaganda." We (pornographers) fought our case once (to the Supreme Court) and it ruled anything between consenting adults is okay, but it left the way open for local communities to set their own guidelines. I stated the consequences above.

Now comes the *first* church to feel the wrath of local law. It shall indeed be interesting to learn if the Supreme Court leaves a way open for local communities in this case.

If so, I say, why have a Supreme Court? To have highly paid justices sit on their hands?

First it was us, now a church; who will be next? Will it be you or yours? Nobody responded to my article, "Porno Charade." I'll bet there'd be response if indeed you are the next. I'll bet there'll be more people concurring with W. F. Allen (Your View, May 26), who wrote, "Turn this country back to the land of the free and the home of the brave."

It is high time we put a damper on local law enforcement and its ambitious little gods. It's time we all got back to the basic law of the land. No buts. Just the law according to the Constitution, period.

ROBERT C. CARMAN
St. Petersburg

ON THE WORLD SCENE

STRAUSS "GOES FOR BROKE": It's now official. Franz-Josef Strauss will go up against Chancellor Helmut Schmidt in next year's West German General Election, a campaign which London's Daily Telegraph predicts will be a "titanic duel."

The selection of Strauss as their chancellor candidate by the opposition Christian Democratic Union/Christian Socialist Union came after a tense seven-hour long inter-party caucus on Monday July 3. When it was over, the CDU/CSU parliamentary candidates voted 135 to 102 in favor of Herr Strauss over his rival, CDU favorite Ernst Albrecht, the 49-year-old "boy wonder" premier of Lower Saxony. The outcome was a slap in the face for Helmut Kohl, national chairman of the CDU (and unsuccessful challenger to Schmidt in 1976) who had championed Albrecht's cause.

The Strauss victory was attributed to no small degree to widespread dissatisfaction within the conservative coalition ranks. Kohl was often considered "faceless," though his loss in 1976 was a close one. The Telegraph said the Strauss nomination was a clear case of the tail wagging the dog, since the CSU Bavarian wing of the coalition, run by Strauss, has only 53 deputies in the Bonn Bundestag, compared with 200 for the CDU, which covers the rest of the country. Added the Telegraph:

"That the CSU was able to win over so many CDU MPs scarcely a month after the CDU executive had unanimously backed the Albrecht candidacy is a measure of the disarray within the main opposition party. Disenchanted Christian Democrats began rallying to Herr Strauss as soon as he threw his hat into the ring, some five weeks ago. They wanted a 'strong man' image to present to the country instead of the weakness and disunity pervading CDU headquarters in Bonn."

Strauss, who sensed the growing support for his nomination, suggested during the party campaign the possibility that if he were not nominated he might split the CDU/CSU coalition and "go national" with his Bavarian faction. Apparently enough CDU members were concerned about this mild threat, along with having doubts about the untested Albrecht, to throw their lots in with Strauss.

But Could He Win It All?

The big question now, of course, is how the Bavarian strongman will fare in the big contest next year against the popular Herr Schmidt.

There is no doubt that if the election were to be held in the very near future, Strauss' chances would be two--slim and none. One recent public opinion poll indicated that the 63-year-old Bavarian leader would get only 31 percent of the vote, with 58 going to the Chancellor.

But mid-summer 1979 is not late 1980. (Although no date for the election has been set, it probably won't be held until the second half of next year, probably in the fall.) Much can happen between now and then--and, looking at world conditions, especially with regard to OPEC, sky-rocketing oil prices and a declining world (and probably by then West German) economy, a marked shift in Herr Strauss' favor will very likely occur. This prospect was examined by editor Theo Sommer, writing in the German weekly, Der Spiegel, July 6, 1979:

"Who says that Strauss is really going to lose the congressional elections? Yes, the polls speak against his victory...But what would happen, if economic development would escape the grip of the chancellor. In case inflation and unemployment would rise next year, the economic growth would diminish, [then] every gas pump would become an advertising sign against the coalition government. What if his party would continue to move away from Helmut Schmidt more toward the left? [Then] the Free Democrats would swing toward the right... then we would have chancellor Strauss. Most of all though, a chancellor without self control, brakes or dependable safeguards."

This latent fear of the "uncontrollable Strauss" was expressed in an editorial in the Berliner Morgenpost of July 8 (and our thanks here to the Bonn office for answering our request for up-to-date German press analysis):

"He [Strauss] is accorded either warmest sympathies or flaming hatred. He is stylized as savior or as spoiler...he is accused of being a demagogue possessed by ambition, a man of power who served his apprenticeship under Machiavelli and who jettisons all morality from politics. On his march into the chancellory he has to study the high art of balance, moderation and self control."

The Times Will Determine the Man

There are some West Germans who describe Franz-Josef Strauss as a Stehaufmaennchen, one of those tumbler-toys, rounded and weighted at the bottom, which, no matter how often knocked over, bounces right back again. His career is speckled with incidents, such as the "Spiegel affair" of 1962, that would have sent most other politicians packing into retirement. Yet here he is, as John Dornberg writes in the International Herald Tribune (June 12, 1979), "back in the limelight making what appears to be a final all-or-nothing bid for national power."

Yet, despite Strauss' flare for oratory, it will probably be the direction of world events over the next year, more than anything else, that will pave his pathway to power. Strauss himself has curiously seemed to believe such could be the case. Over eight years ago, in May, 1971, Strauss told der Spiegel: "I hope the German people will never be so bad off that they think they have to elect me federal chancellor."

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau