

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Activities in the French-Speaking Areas

Still more fruit is being born in the Caribbean, according to the following report from the French Department:

Months after Mr. Apartian's campaign in Guadeloupe last November, our pastor there, Mr. Erik Dubois, tells us that a lady called him saying she would like to attend services with her daughter. He also visited another lady who had not only attended Mr. Apartian's last campaign, but also the previous one in February 1979. It looks like the seeds sown in Guadeloupe sometimes take a while to germinate!

Five new persons now attend Sabbath services in Martinique following Mr. Apartian's campaigns held last November. The political tensions have now subsided in Martinique, although this is only temporary.

La Pure Verite: In an effort to increase our readership of the PV, 2,000 renewal offers were sent to former PV subscribers in the Paris, Bordeaux, and Lyon areas. By June 2, we already had 201 responses. As a result, 3,863 renewal letters are being sent to all of France. Since we've had such a good response, we will be offering the same opportunity to our former readers in Guadeloupe and Martinique.

Following Mr. Schnee's initiative to offer The PLAIN TRUTH in German, English, Spanish, French and Dutch, 247 persons have responded requesting La Pure Verite. We are very excited about those results.

Fair Booth: Mr. Jean Carion, pastor of the Brussels and Lille churches, has just written us about a small booth he set up at the Lille Fair to advertise La Pure Verite and several other booklets. Although many people couldn't believe the offer was actually free, 732 subscribed at the Fair. Subscription cards are still being mailed in bringing the total up so far to over 750 new subscriptions.

Brethren from three church areas in Cameroon "celebrated" the local Labor Day holiday on May 1 at the residence of their local minister, Mr. Ray Clore, living for the time being in Douala. A total of 28 persons played card games, checkers, and board games in the morning until about 11:00 when the Walt Disney film, "The Boatniks" was shown. After the film, the Church presented gifts to a newly married couple, Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Teupa. An African meal of fried plantain, beef in hot sauce and specially prepared fish followed the presentation. The games and fellowship continued until 5 p.m. This was the first time that brethren from Victoria, about 50 miles west of Douala, and Edea, about 60 miles south east of Douala, had been able to meet together with the brethren in Douala itself for a combined social occasion.

On Pentecost, 40 persons assembled at Douala, of which 24 were adults. The atmosphere was one of the friendliest and most encouraging.

Mr. Clore's prospective member list remains at 10, while he has performed 10 baptisms since his arrival in Cameroon. One member recently lost his job because of Sabbath keeping. Remember that these brethren are daily facing hardships we haven't yet experienced in this country. Please continue praying so that the Church in Cameroon may be officially recognized.

Special visit: Sixteen teenagers from the church in Martinique along with several adults, will travel to the United States, July 27, to give a folkloric presentation to the churches in New York, Buffalo, Montreal, and from August 12 to 17 they will be in Pasadena--their final destination before returning home.

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

JACKSONVILLE, NC--DON ENGLE: It would be less than accurate to say there are not a few problems in the area, but fortunately, for the most part, these difficulties are not of an "abnormal" nature. Overall, the Church has solidified under the heat of legal pressures and the intensity of world affairs with their relationship to prophecy. There has been an excellent response to Mr. Armstrong's writing recently on tithing and the doctrine of "Porneia." The Pentecost offering averaged well over \$15.00 per person, which is excellent for this area of the country.

FAYETTEVILLE, NC--JIM PEOPLES: The Church is stable. Negative comments have been near zero for the past several months. People want to know about Mr. Armstrong's travels and plans. If possible we would like for Mr. Armstrong to continue with his Bible study tapes. They were helpful and inspiring.

PIKEVILLE, KY--WARREN J. HEATON III: Member involvement in Church activities shows a marked increase. PM activity is increasing. Lethargic members are regaining interest. Church attendance is on the increase. Baptism requests are up.

The public Bible lectures have produced bountiful fruits. There are several new people genuinely interested in God's Church, some of whom have been listening to the broadcast and receiving the P.T. for 15 to 20 years and now wish to attend Church.

BOWLING GREEN, KY--KENT FENTRESS: Attitudes are excellent--most expressing a very open desire to overcome. Lack of money for gas is an increasing problem for a few.

RICHMOND, VA--KENNETH GIESE: Mr. Armstrong's recent remarks on third tithe and D & R brought excellent response from the entire congregation. Many continually comment on Mr. Armstrong's continued drive to get the Church back on track.

HUNTSVILLE/FLORENCE, AL--LAWSON J. TUCK: I see a trend of growing unity of mind and zeal among the brethren. I feel the weekly Bible studies have contributed to this. I have been encouraged by the increasing Bible study attendance, which shows me where people's hearts are.

ALBANY, NY--LYLE WELTY: Members seem to be doing well for the most part. Pentecost was the big news: Dr. Hoeh's visit was a real inspiration to everyone. The atmosphere of the combined churches for the Holy Day plus a special guest speaker, was a real shot in the arm for us all.

POPLAR BLUFFS, MO--JOHN CAFOUREK: The membership has been inspired by the Pentecost visit from Pasadena which explained the new direction of God's Work under the active leadership of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong.

COOKEVILLE, TN--DARRIS MCNEELY: Attitudes seem strong and positive. Everyone is already making plans for the Feast. Now that the site is close to home, many of our older or poorer members are anxiously awaiting to attend.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

QUESTIONABLE THEORY OF LAW BASIS OF STATE'S LAWSUIT

Editor's Note: As mentioned before in the Pastor General's Report, the California Attorney General is attempting to establish a rule of law through the courts based on a theory. The Church's leadership and attorneys believe the Attorney General's theory cannot "hold water" because it countermands the foundational, long-established law of the land which guarantees freedom of religion.

Dean Kelley, executive for religious liberty at the National Council of Churches and an energetic supporter of the Worldwide Church of God in its struggle with misdirected state power, has written an article explaining our case. The article appeared in the June 18-25 issue of The Christian CENTURY. We are reprinting a few excerpts for the interest of our readers, beginning with the article's title and drophead:

A Church in Receivership: California's Unique Theory of Church and State

What has happened to the Worldwide Church of God, appalling as it is, is not nearly so alarming as the rationale under which it has happened —which could apply equally to any religious corporation in California.

DEAN M. KELLEY

Mr. Kelley mentioned that the Attorney General's lawsuit and the subsequent events "is instructive not only for its own melodramatic touches but also for the singular theory of law on which the attorney general has proceeded [He] has claimed authority under the common law to monitor and safeguard any charitable trust in the state, and such a trust is created, he says, whenever people give money for a charitable purpose--including a church! (Never mind that the common law took shape in England, where the king or queen is head of the church, or that the Worldwide Church of God does not solicit money from the general public.)

"The implications that flow from this theory are mind-boggling. Their inimitable flavor can be savored fully only in the actual words of the attorney general's representatives as recorded in the court transcripts.

The Attorney General of the State of California, and his deputies, have not only the power, but the duty, at any time to investigate all the books and records, 100 per cent of the books and records of any charitable, religious or educational organization because... [the organization] derives its position, its existence, from the State of California.

Now those records do not belong...to Mr. Armstrong. There are no privileges, constitutional or otherwise, of a charitable foundation against investigation by the Attorney General.

...for 700 years, Your Honor, it has been the law in England and America that charitable funds are public funds. They are perpetually in the custody of the court. The court is the ultimate custodian of all church funds....

Your Honor has the power and the discretion to safeguard and preserve those assets and the duty to do so. But the church, as a charitable trust, has no interest to protect here. It has no client. It is the court's funds, and the court may remove and replace and substitute trustees at its pleasure.

"His Honor not only fell in with this spacious (and specious) characterization of his powers, but went on to inform the church's attorneys, when they protested that members knew what Herbert Armstrong was doing with their contributions and wished him to continue to manage the church as he saw fit, that 'their wishes are immaterial.' He also felt quite confident of his ability to distinguish between the temporal and the spiritual aspects of the church, and to safeguard the former without interfering with the latter: 'I just don't think ecclesiastical matters have anything to do with the financial aspects of the operation out there.'

"The court was not deterred by the remonstrations of the church's counsel, who tried their best to draw the court's attention to the rather clearly settled law of the United States: that the government may not entangle itself excessively in the internal affairs of churches, as by inspecting their records to determine what is religious and what is secular; that it may not interfere in the free exercise of religion unless it shows not just a rational but a compelling interest and one that can be served in no other way; that a showing must be made that there is probable cause to believe that a crime has been committed before the law-enforcement authorities can intervene, and no such showing had been made, or even offered, by the attorney general; that even the compelled disclosure of church financial records is probably an invasion of religious liberty (Surinach v. deBusquets, First Circuit Court of Appeals, 1979)....

"The attorney general seems somewhat perplexed and offended that the Worldwide Church of God is kicking up such a fuss over what he probably considers a regrettable but routine inquiry. His minions have been heard to observe in court that this case is becoming much more expensive to the state than had been anticipated, and that other religious corporations had submitted to the attorney general's inspection without such resistance. Both he and the court seem to be resisting the distraction--like a plowman brushing away a fly--of references to the First Amendment.

"The First Amendment is one of the United States' most important contributions to civilization. It made churches--for the first time in history--truly and officially independent of the state. Prior to that time, churches--or at least the favored church--had been a wholly owned subsidiary of the government. In some places that is still the case. One of them may be California. The theory advanced by the attorney general of that state could, if not corrected by higher authority, work a monstrous throwback to the Middle Ages, even to the Caesaropapism promulgated by Justinian, which proclaimed the emperor the ruler of the church. This the Worldwide Church of God is making heroic efforts to prevent."

PUBLISHING SERVICES UPDATE

Here in Publishing last week, we had meetings and various discussions with Bram de Bree, Regional Director of the Dutch area of God's Work, and David Hulme, Circulation Director of the Canadian area. Mr. de Bree and Mr. Hulme also spent time with various department heads here in Pasadena. Our meetings in Publishing centered around ways in which we could help improve PLAIN TRUTH circulation and promotion programs.

Topics discussed were: PLAIN TRUTH direct mail systems, direct mail for increasing PLAIN TRUTH readership, The PLAIN TRUTH newsstand program, and newspaper advertising.

Everybody involved felt that the meetings were very helpful. We will be following up on some specific details regarding the meetings in the next few weeks.

Mr. Herbert Armstrong's Everest House Book, TOMORROW--WHAT IT WILL BE LIKE is still getting positive reviews, which in themselves are proving to be a tremendous witness. Below is a typical example taken from the June 1980 issue of "Columbia," which claims to be the largest Catholic family magazine in North America.

"The Work of world evangelism--of spiritually saving the world--will require re-educating the world." So writes Herbert W. Armstrong in "Tomorrow--What It Will Be Like" (Everest House--\$7.95). Armstrong, founder of the Worldwide Church of God, has preached his brand of evangelism in over 70 countries in the past decade. Armstrong's message is a fundamentalist one, based on an unswervingly literal interpretation of the Bible--particularly its apocalyptic revelations. He espouses chiliasm, or a literal acceptance of the thousand-year reign of Christ and its saints on earth.

This reign, Armstrong holds, will be realized in a very near tomorrow. The implication of his breathless remarks is that those now living will be subjects of Christ's coming kingdom.

It's interesting to ask yourself when, in the last 50 years, has a Catholic magazine carried such a positive statement about the message Mr. Herbert Armstrong is preaching.

The above is an excellent example of why Everest House exists. A free book does not get the same public acceptance as one that is published through the book trade for sale. The ironic thing is, all of Mr. Armstrong's writings are still available free for the asking.

An Open Letter to California's Attorney General

Appeared in the Los Angeles Times July 3, 1980



STANLEY R. RADER

YOU HAVE publicly and officially accused us of siphoning off, pilfering, misusing and misappropriating assets of the Worldwide Church of God, Inc., on a massive scale amounting to several million dollars per year; of conducting a massive liquidation of Church properties at prices well below market value in order to facilitate this embezzlement; of denying Church members access to records or financial information; of refusing to prepare Church accountings; of removing, shredding and destroying documents in order to conceal evidence of this wrong-doing.

You have assaulted and seized, pilaged and raped the Worldwide Church of God, thrown it into receivership, rifled and confiscated its innermost records and inflicted millions of dollars of damage upon the Church and its programs.

WHY?

In an official document to the California Supreme Court, you have stated that the Church is merely a nominal party.

Why pursue, desecrate and destroy the Church?

FALSE CHARGES

Isn't it true that your charges are false? That when put to your proof of "massive liquidation" and destruction of records, for example, you came up empty-handed before a court of your own choosing?

Isn't it true and hence, your charges false that the massive quantities of records that you seized illegally and carted off wholesale, disclosed detailed, meticulous and certified accountings, going back for more than 20 years?

Isn't it true, and hence your charges are false, that seven weeks of probing by the receiver's agents, including a nation-

al firm of certified public accountants showed that the Church's computerized accounting system was one of the finest in the nation and revealed no evidence of embezzlement, misappropriation or pilfering as you falsely charged?

Isn't it true that the only "siphoning off and pilfering" you could come up with consisted of the Church's expenditures to send the Church's Pastor General and officers into foreign nations in pursuance of the Church's primary commission - to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the world as a witness, and that in furtherance of this commission it paid expenses of its Pastor General and Church officials; met with, entertained and received foreign dignitaries and heads of state in the many, many countries around the globe that were visited in the course of this Work of the Gospel; purchased and presented gifts to such dignitaries appropriate to the occasions?

Isn't it also true that the entire membership of the Church has been fully advised concerning these activities on an ongoing basis and has demonstrated its full support for them?

Isn't it true that it wasn't even necessary to file suits to ascertain these facts?

Isn't it true that we document them proudly in our Church publications?

YOUR REAL MOTIVES NOW EXPOSED

Isn't it true that your real purpose, as you have officially proclaimed in your civil complaint, is that you wish:

1. To establish supervisory control over all Churches and to establish that all Church property is State property?

2. To decide what is and what is not a reasonable expenditure of Church funds; to decide what is and is not a

permissible Church or religious purpose or religious activity?

3. To decide how Churches may be permitted to spread their faith, and how far their representatives may journey to spread the Gospel, in what style and whom they may see?

THE WORK OF THE LIVING GOD HAS CONTINUED

Since you filed your lawsuit, we have continued our great commission to take the Gospel as a witness to all nations (Matt. 24:14). Herbert W. Armstrong, Christ's Apostle and the Pastor General, and I have visited Tokyo and have been received by the prime minister in private audience; and we have spoken before senior members of the Japanese Diet and of the Japanese Foreign Office as well as senior members of the Japanese Diplomatic Corps; we have visited Tunisia and Morocco and we have met and conferred with the prime ministers of Morocco and Tunisia.

Herbert W. Armstrong and I have also journeyed to China—the first representatives to be so invited from the world of Christianity in more than 30 years—to propagate the Gospel of Jesus Christ; and the Church has already entered into protocols with the government of the People's Republic of China for the purpose of bringing about better understanding between the peoples of China and the peoples of the United States.

We advise you openly, that we will continue to pursue these activities, for the purpose of fulfilling the great commission you so willfully choose to characterize as "siphoning and pilfering."

We urge you once again to take your hand from the throat of our Church and cease slandering the Church and its members while misleading the public.

STANLEY R. RADER
Treasurer
Worldwide Church of God

MAIL COMMENTS

Our letters for this week's Report show that there can be rich blessings for God's people during their third tithe year! Other letter comments show that members continue to express their confidence in the leadership of God's Church during the ongoing legal battle.

--Mail Processing Center

Third Tithe Blessings

What a wonderful third tithe year! I have been blessed with financial aid for my college education, insurance money finally came through for me from an accident I was injured in early last year, tips have been more than ample on my part-time waitress job, Holy Day leave has always been granted, income tax refund is far more than I'd dared guess and thus my debts are paid. Finally, this spring, my flowers are blooming.

--Karen S. (Albany, OR)

We have truly been blessed in this third tithe year! Last week we had a dining room set given to us (china cabinet, table and six chairs). There have been so many beautiful things that happened to us in this third tithe year.

I didn't know how we were going to make it financially this month, and then a man stopped at our house and wanted to buy an old car we had sitting for about two years here. And then a friend of mine told me her friend would give me \$50 for my old dining room table and chairs. So, just like that, God did it again.

--Mrs. Sidney H. (Goshen, OH)

Even though I am in my third tithe year and having to struggle a little, I can still see the hand of God at work in giving me blessings and providing me with future blessings.

--John P. (Jamaica, NY)

I have just finished my second third tithe year. As happened during the first third tithe year, I learned the lesson that one cannot outgive God when one is faithful to Him. In my first third tithe year I was blessed with the opportunity to buy a house. This year I finished paying it off. During my six years in the Church, my salary has more than doubled while expenses have been small. The job I have is exciting and I've even had a chance to serve in Y.O.U. (also very exciting). When I look back on all that God has poured out to me in blessings, I can't help but think about Jacob who said, "I am not worthy of the least of all the steadfast love and all the faithfulness which thou hast shown to thy servant...."

--Armin R. (San Jose, CA)

We can truly say that God has kept His promise to bless us during our third tithe year. Not only are our needs met, but God has provided us with luxuries as well. We wondered how it would work at first and I am still not sure how it works on paper, but we always have enough.

--Mr. & Mrs. Keith T. (Omaha, NE)

Members Look to God in Continued Legal Battle

My faith in God and in those He has chosen to do His Work increased as I considered that after a full year, after all their diligent efforts to find a fault with the Work, the Attorney General is totally without justification. I thanked God that His Work is so efficiently and honestly operated.

--Mrs. W.B. (Plain Dealing, LA)

The Philadelphia era of God's Church was prophesied to have but "a little strength," yet under Mr. Armstrong's human leadership, we have been able to use that God-given strength to accomplish some remarkable things; the state is no match for God's Church. The true leadership Christ has been showing over this Work cannot be doubted. Neither can Mr. Armstrong's apostleship.

--Kevin B. (Pasadena, CA)

I heard the news on the radio about the Church's court case. Mr. Rader said that the Church would continue fighting the court order to submit all Church records. God will certainly work something when the proper time comes.

--Laverne K. (Long Beach, CA)

Despite our seemingly continuous legal setbacks, the spiritual resources of this Church will completely overwhelm the State of California!

--William A. (Avon Park, FL)

Since this trouble with the State of California began, my husband and I have never been closer together than we are right now. We are solidly and prayerfully behind Mr. Armstrong.

--Mrs. Olin M. (Longview, TX)

I have received the "State Vs Church" pamphlet and shall certainly write letters to the people whose names are on the back. Hope and pray this will do some good to awaken the Attorney General of California to the fact that he is in the wrong!

--Mrs. Edward A. (Redwood City, CA)

ON THE WORLD SCENE

FUROR OVER JERUSALEM--WHEN WILL IT EXPLODE? On Monday, June 30, the U.N. Security Council in a 14-0 vote, with the United States abstaining, re-affirmed its demand that Israel withdraw from captured Arab territories and condemned a plan to make occupied East Jerusalem part of a unified Israeli capital.

The resolution was introduced by 22 Moslem states and later endorsed by 14 other nations. By the time it came to vote, the text of the resolution had been toned down considerably from the original Moslem demands, especially those threatening sanctions, enabling Washington to abstain rather than cast a veto.

Specifically, the resolution deplored "the persistence of Israel in changing the physical character, demographic composition, institutional

structure and the status of the Holy City of Jerusalem." It also said attempts to consolidate Jerusalem formally under Israeli rule "constitute a serious obstruction to achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East."

The heat being focused in the U.N. on the Jerusalem issue is intensifying --for good reason.

On the very day of the U.N. vote, a parliamentary committee in Israel's Knesset voted overwhelmingly to pass along to the full membership a bill that recognized the entirety of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. The bill must pass three readings before becoming law.

Further, Prime Minister Menachem Begin, recovering from yet another minor heart attack, plans to move his office into a new government complex in the eastern half of the city.

Conservative Knesset member Geula Cohen, who sponsored the bill, praised the Knesset committee's decision. "Especially today, when the security council is saying no to Jerusalem, the Knesset must say yes to Jerusalem," she told Israel Radio.

The legislation, the first of its kind, recognizes the annexation of East Jerusalem shortly after the city was captured from Jordan in the six-day war and defines the reunified city as the Israeli capital. It is not internationally recognized as such. Many countries including the U.S. and Canada don't even recognize West Jerusalem as Israel's seat of government, preferring to keep their embassies in Tel Aviv.

Thus, Jerusalem looms more and more and more as the chief bone of international contention. As reported in last week's Pastor General's Report, King Khalid of Saudi Arabia urged West Germany to help Arab Palestinians regain control of "our holy city of Jerusalem." The Common Market is becoming directly involved in pushing its own comprehensive Mideast solution, weighed in favor of Palestinian statehood, though ostensibly guaranteeing Israeli security. And only yesterday, the Egyptian parliament passed a resolution declaring East Jerusalem the "capital of the Palestinians"--a move obviously in response to the pending Israeli legislation.

Truly the Jerusalem issue is becoming a "heavy stone for all peoples; all who lift it shall grievously hurt themselves" (Zech. 12:3, RSV).

Addendum: Just after last week's issue went to press, French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing told newsmen in a press conference in Paris after the Venice II summit that France has already conducted preliminary neutron bomb experiments. He said further that a decision whether to produce the weapon will be made in 1982 or 1983. Some observers feel the decision could come earlier, perhaps as early as next spring, if Giscard wins the national election scheduled for that time.

A neutron bomb is a tactical nuclear weapon designed to destroy life but not buildings and materials. Moscow propaganda labels it the "ultimate capitalist weapon." But Moscow's main concern is that the bomb's focused energy would penetrate Russian armor in any offensive heading toward Western Europe.

Bowing to this pressure, plus left-wing pressure in Western Europe, President Carter sometime ago cancelled U.S. development of the weapon --after securing the approval of West Germany and other NATO countries to go ahead with it.

The announcement by France pleased many NATO officials--unofficially, of course, since France remains outside of NATO's integrated command. It pleased not a few West Germans as well. Some day, French neutron weapons, perhaps as an integral part of an integrated European defense force, could be helping defend West Germany's eastern borders, which would be the focal point of any attack from the Warsaw Pact. A Senior French official said his country could "bring forward its military capacity" to aid the West Germans, if need be.

Addendum II: I thought it would be good to alert the ministry to the existence of the new "fourth" network TV news program now appearing in about 30 metropolitan markets across the United States. It could prove helpful for many, since the half-hour program--called Independent Network News--comes on later in the evening. In Los Angeles, KCOP Channel 13 carries it from 10:00 - 10:30 PM, Monday through Friday.

The program, which features only national and international news (not local yokel stuff) originates in New York and is fed to many independent stations across the nation. Based upon the first few weeks of operation, the INN appears to be a credible alternative to the early evening CBS, NBC, and ABC network news programs. The INN taps the overseas satellite news feed of "Viznews" and other sources.

The INN (not to be confused with Ted Turner's all-news cable programming service out of Atlanta) could prove helpful to the ministry who are usually forced, by their customary duties, to miss the network news programs earlier in the evening. ABC news, by the way, has a new late-night news program, "Night-Line," which comes on at 11:30 PM (10:30 PM in the Midwest). This program, however, is only 20 minutes long, and generally focuses on one subject of the day's news (as does the McNeil-Lehrer report on the Public Broadcasting Service). Also, in some areas, PBS carries, late at night, a captioned version of ABC's "World News Tonight" broadcast earlier in the evening.

All in all, there is now more "news help" for our night-owl ministry. (Check local listings in your areas for these programs.)

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau