

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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AUGUST 8, 1980

CHURCH WINS ROUND IN SUPERIOR COURT

Wednesday morning, August 6th, three deputy Attorneys General of the California Attorney General's office appeared at Los Angeles Superior Court. They had come to argue in defense of a motion they filed which they hoped would punish Mr. Rader. The proceedings would normally have been before Judge Weil who had been presiding at hearings of the State vs. Church suit, but Judge Edward Y. Kakita was substituting for him this week.

The Attorney General has chosen to characterize Mr. Rader's written answers to 143 questions, as well as his disclosure of voluminous personal financial documentation as somehow "insufficient." Thus Deputy Attorney General Cordi went ahead with oral argument in support of a motion calling for "most severe sanctions" against Mr. Rader--a motion which never really got off the ground. At the very least the Attorney General would settle for another deposition of Mr. Rader.

Church attorney Allan Browne explained that there had been no willful non-compliance by Mr. Rader with any state or federal court orders. Prior to this the Church had been seeking appellate relief based on our constitutional rights. Again he pointed out the premise that there are some matters which are private and once made public, like the unringing of a bell, simply cannot be restored. Even Judge Weil, explained Mr. Browne, had held up discovery matters until the outcome of the Church's writ to the U.S. Supreme Court a few months ago.

It was a hard fought hearing with much comment on both sides. But Mr. Browne prevailed with excellent rebuttal. The judge was not swayed by the conclusions the Attorney General was drawing for the court, nor by the heavy sighing of the deputy Attorneys General as they squirmed in their chairs in protestation of comments by Mr. Browne. (Their sighs were so audible that they are now part of the permanent court record, having drawn comment by the Judge!)

The Attorney General did not win any sanctions or even a much sooner date for another deposition of Mr. Rader. The Court ordered Mr. Rader's deposition set for November 19 to accommodate his very busy schedule in service to the Church.

MR. RADER COMBINES RADIO INTERVIEW WITH CHURCH VISIT

Mr. Rader visited the Chicago Church on August 1st and 2nd at the invitation of pastor Roy Holladay. While in Chicago he was interviewed by Ira Johnson of WLS radio, a 50,000 watt station with a vast potential audience. Friday evening Mr. Rader addressed the ministry and wives at a dinner meeting in the Queen's Room of the Ambassador West Hotel. The next day

he spoke to approximately 1375 members in attendance at the combined Sabbath service of the upper midwest Churches of God which included the four Chicago churches, two churches from Milwaukee, as well as the Kenosha and Wisconsin Dells churches. Ministry and members from Rockford, Illinois, Elkhart and Michigan City, Indiana were also present. The group met at Chicago's famous McCormick Place.

The Ministerial Dinner Meeting

Thirty-seven people were in attendance at the dinner meeting with Mr. Rader and his party, including seven full-time ministers and their wives, as well as eight local elders and their wives--all representing the eleven upper midwest churches.

Mr. Rader told the ministry that legal backing is coming from many diverse religious groups and organizations. This, of course, is coming as a result of other churches clearly seeing the need to make a united effort to preserve the freedom of churches to operate as they choose.

It is obvious that we are coming to the turning point in the case, as Mr. Rader noted that we are now beginning to see a change in the media's perception of the Attorney General's intentions in the lawsuit. The public is also growing noticeably more aware of the real issues. Mr. Rader said it will be Mr. Armstrong versus the Attorney General, with the question being squarely, "Who will run the Church, Christ or Caesar?"

Mr. Rader emphasized how the lawsuit has had a galvanizing effect on the membership. Their support and loyalty, empowered by deep convictions, brought some outstanding examples to the fore, and gained the respect of the media at large. And, significantly, God has turned a Satanic attack into a powerful vehicle to help Mr. Armstrong preach the gospel to the world, especially through the full-page newspaper ads he is writing.

Mr. Rader said that we must take advantage of this opportunity and not become defensive. He drew a parallel with Paul's experiences in Rome when many people came to listen to him because of the controversy surrounding his message. The Church has been thrust into the limelight and we must take advantage of this as the opportunity it is. We are using the ad campaign to not only educate the public about the true facts of the lawsuit, but also to preach the gospel and to tell them what the Church is all about while we have their attention.

Mr. Rader reminded the ministry that the Attorney General has tried to misinform the public. We have proof of his saying one thing in court and another when questioned by the media. He has yelled "fire!" when there is no fire. But sooner or later the media catches on. Recently, a government official, the U.S. Attorney General, was caught in a lie about the "Billygate" affair.

Mr. Rader stressed that even though you are right, you may still have to prove you are right. He used the example of the Jehovah's Witnesses a few decades ago who went to jail for their rights which they subsequently recovered (A municipal jurisdiction had tried to charge them a fee for the right to pass out literature in public). Mr. Rader also

Mr. Attorney General of California: Just what do you mean— a "Cult"?

Appeared in the Los Angeles Times August 7, 1980

ARE you implying the Worldwide Church of God is a "cult"?

Have you heard American Greeks insulted by calling them "wops"—Italian Americans insulted by the epithet "dagos"?—Jews belittled by the terms "kikes" or "sheenies"—would you insult blacks with the epithet "niggers"?

For a generation or two after the Civil War some Southerners hurled the insult "Yankees" at northerners—yet today a very respectable New York baseball club proudly bears the name "Yankees."

When your office launched its surprise massive armed attack on the Worldwide Church of God, screaming banner headlines used the epithet "cult." Was this intended to belittle the LIVING GOD AND HIS CHURCH?

Just What Is a "Cult"?

It's time we learn the meaning of words! It's time for those living in glass houses to quit throwing stones!

After the unfortunate Jonestown mass suicide the word *cult* was used to discredit. It was indiscriminately used to besmear smaller though fifth decade established respectable churches. Was it not used to justify the unconstitutional assault to "take over," control and own—or else destroy—the churches of California?

Our good name—and that of the great GOD whose name we bear—was irrepar-



HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

ably damaged by this politically motivated assault of Jan. 3, 1979. True, you, Mr. Attorney General, inherited this case. You came into office a few days after the assault by your office. But you have fully accepted it as *your* battle against the churches of California.

The unfortunate Jonestown disaster was used to justify the political scheme to take over, own, control and operate ALL CHURCHES in California. The Worldwide Church of God was selected as the target test case—one expected to "cave in".

If we fall before this massive unconstitutional assault all churches in California—Catholic, Protestant and Jewish—would topple like dominos. We defend them as well as ourselves! That's why they—representing 84 million Americans—are joining forces in our legal defense!

True, your office picked on a church supposedly small in membership. You see, we count as members *only* adult baptized members in regular weekly attendance at services. (98% to 100% in local churches attend every weekly service—a record unmatched! If we counted, as commonly done, occasional attendances, children and regular financial supporters, our membership is closer to a half million.

We are considerably larger than the original Church of God founded A.D. 31

by Jesus Christ. It started, that day of Pentecost, with 120 members (Acts 1:15). And did you know that *they* were considered, while young, as a new "cult" or "sect"?

A prominent Baptist minister said recently, "If the Worldwide Church of God is a cult then we Baptists were a cult during the early years of our growth."

Actually the word *cult* is NOT primarily an insulting epithet. The word comes from the Latin and French through a word meaning "CULTURE." Webster defines "cult" as: "1) formal religious veneration, worship; 2) a system of religious belief and ritual, also adherents to; and 3) a religion rejected as unorthodox or spurious." It was this third usage in modern parlance that was sensationalized after the Jonestown tragedy. But that does not condemn the Worldwide Church of God, NOR the Catholic, Protestant or Jewish bodies—all of whom started SMALL IN NUMBERS!

The true Church of God started SMALL in number of members. Jesus Christ compared His Church, and the coming KINGDOM of God into which it shall grow, to a grain of mustard seed—the smallest of all herbs, but to grow ultimately to FILL THE WHOLE EARTH! Jesus called His Church "the Little Flock."

That "Little Flock" then was persecuted, even as it still is TODAY! Jesus said if they had persecuted even HIM, they would also persecute His Church!

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
Pastor General
Worldwide Church of God

If the reader would like to see some of the ORIGINAL TRUTH, delivered by Jesus Christ Himself, request the FREE booklet *Just What Do You Mean—BORN AGAIN?* It will open your eyes—astound you! Also we will send you a copy of *The Plain Truth*—a full-color mass-circulation magazine of UNDERSTANDING—circulation worldwide in five languages, over two million. It will surprise and delight you! There is NO FOLLOW-UP—we do not solicit the public for contributions. We are nonproselyting!

Write the Worldwide Church of God, Pasadena, Calif., 91123, or call toll-free, (800) 423-4444. In California call collect (213) 577-5225.

If you have some questions for the attorney general of the state of California, write to him, The Hon. George Deukmejian, California Attorney General, 555 Capitol Mall, Sacramento, Calif., 95814

noted that the Supreme Court sometimes will leave an injustice alone if it would expose others in high positions of having committed a wrong! But he said that we want a Supreme Court decision because it will vindicate us of all wrong--and people will then listen much more to what we say because of that.

So our battle is more than just a battle with two sides or points of view to it. A great wrong has been done to God's Church and Mr. Armstrong is not bashful about stepping on some well-deserving toes! And in defending our own religious rights we are serving all other religious groups.

Combined Sabbath Services

Introductory comments to the 1375 brethren assembled on Sabbath, August 2, were made by Mr. Joe Kotora who flew to Chicago with Mr. Rader. Mr. Kotora introduced the documentary, "Church Versus State," after which he gave a sermonette in which he encouraged the brethren to at all costs endure to the end.

After the sermonette, Mr. Rader spoke along the lines of the night before, as well as giving insights into the Work, Mr. Armstrong, and his own part in it over the years leading up to his baptism in 1975.

Mr. Rader said Mr. Armstrong is quite proud to be in the vanguard in re-establishing religious freedom for all churches. Despite the corrupt practices of the Attorney General in dealing with the media, we are now winning the battle with the media and the public is coming around to our side.

Mentioning that the Church and the members are in the limelight because of the mountains of publicity we have been getting over the last 19 months, he related that Mr. Armstrong looks upon this attack in very positive terms--as an opportunity, since "You can't make lemonade without lemons."

The brethren were very glad to hear of the latest developments in the lawsuit and to gain valuable insights into the man God's Apostle has chosen to aid him in fulfilling the Great Commission.

In closing, Mr. Rader read a quotation of Abraham Lincoln which he said sums up his own feelings about everything that has been happening in the last 19 months, and what will happen in the future:

I know there is a God and I know He hates injustice. I see the storm coming and I know His hand is in it. But if He has a place and a part for me, I believe that I am ready.

Mr. Rader noted that the issue today is still freedom, and that there is a storm and "we are in the middle of it." But it is something we can be thankful to be a part of for "we know God's hand is in it."

--Roger Abels, Chicago Southeast

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICESJanuary-June 1980 U.S. Church Report

This is the first of what we hope will be a periodic feature in the Pastor General's Report to keep all of you informed of activities within the U.S. Churches.

Baptisms: There have been 1,741 baptisms in the U.S. during the first six months of 1980. This is a 33% increase over the number of baptisms for the same period in 1979 and brings the level of baptisms back up to what we had in 1977.

Church Attendance: U.S. Church attendance averaged 70,345 for June. This is only slightly less than the May figure (70,897) which is the highest attendance figure we have had since we started averaging the weekly Church attendances in January 1978.

New Churches: In order to reduce the mileage many of the brethren are having to drive to attend Sabbath services, the following new churches have been approved so far this year: Coldwater, Michigan; Mena, Arkansas; Lake Crystal, Minnesota; Tallahassee, Florida; Bangor, Maine and Portland, Maine (replacing Augusta); Baker, Oregon; Hazard, Kentucky; Winchester, West Virginia; Cadillac, Michigan and Yankton, South Dakota.

Public Bible Lectures: Up through June, 106 Public Bible Lectures have been held in the U.S. We have received attendance reports on 75 of these with a combined new attendance of 917 for those reporting.

Probably the most successful Bible Lecture held so far this year was conducted by Earl Williams. The following is a brief report from Earl on this lecture:

...We were able, with the help of God, to witness to approximately ninety brand new people. This works out to be a 3.3% response to our invitation. This past Sabbath (April 19), after the lecture, we had about 30 of those people to come back for Sabbath services and two requesting baptism already. We tried one very successful experiment. What we did was to put 300 attractive brochures inside newsstand Plain Truths. We also had a three-day spot ad at the end of the radio broadcast. We feel the lectures were successful not only because of the new people who had responded, but it has also turned on the local membership with renewed zeal and enthusiasm.

International News

Caribbean Update: The Caribbean office in San Juan, Puerto Rico reports that the mail count for the month of June is up 38% over the same period last year. The amount of mail containing contributions this month was up 50% over last year. And the total income for the Caribbean area is up 4.8% over June of 1979.

Mr. Al Sousa of the San Juan Church has been carrying out a series of Bible lectures to students of the Spanish correspondence course in the cities of San Juan, Ponce and Mayaguez, Puerto Rico. The overall response

has been good with the percentage of response to the letter of invitation (in terms of attendance) progressively improving from 2% in San Juan to 13% in Ponce and 15% in the city of Mayaguez. One more conference is planned for the city of Humacao, Puerto Rico.

Mr. Stan Bass, Regional Director for the Caribbean area was recently in Jamaica for an annual meeting for the Association of the Worldwide Church of God in Jamaica, Ltd. He reported, "I found Charles and Carmen Fleming (the ministerial assistant there) and all the brethren in Jamaica safe in spite of all the increasing political violence in the country. In the week or so that we were in Jamaica, there were nearly thirty persons slain in political violence. It is truly saddening to see what is happening to an independent and hearty people. It is as if the Jamaican society has a mandate to destroy itself. Almost no one goes anywhere at night for fear of physical harm.

"In the ghettos of Kingston," continued Mr. Bass, "what is happening is almost unbelievable. It is there that the political polarization sweeping the country is most evident. In the JLP areas (areas supportive of the Jamaica Labour Party, the opposition party) streets are barricaded with old cars, garbage cans, abandoned furniture, anything which will serve to prevent easy access to PNP (People's National Party) gunmen. The same is true of the PNP areas. Each political party seems determined to blame the other party for all the violence experienced by its followers--tit for tat--or as the leader of the opposition, Edward Seaga, said, 'blood for blood.'

"What a pity that the Jamaican people have to suffer at the hands of their leaders with their political folly. But in spite of all the problems, a visit to the Jamaica Church is an experience to remember. Such warmth and outgoing concern would at first seem hard to explain in the light of the day-to-day experiences of living in Jamaica. But, somehow, when almost every day of one's life he must review what is important and what is not, God's Spirit manifests itself in an extra, second effort.

"The highlight of my visit to Jamaica was a Ladies Night with the Spokesman Club in which seven men were graduated. Something I wish you all could have seen and heard was the speech given by Don Breidenthal. Don is a U.S. Peace Corps member stationed in Jamaica. The thing that made his speech outstanding is the fact that he has been deaf since the age of five! He was an inspiration to me. Living proof that the word 'handicap' can be applied only to golfers and those poor souls who say 'I can't,' even before they try," concluded Mr. Bass.

Report From The Netherlands: Regional Director Bram de Bree telexed that this has been the rainiest summer for over 40 years. Two weeks ago the skies were clear and sunny for the first time in six weeks. With a very dry spring and extremely wet summer, food prices are rapidly increasing. Even the millions of cows in that green country give less milk. Several rivers have overflowed their banks. Meanwhile, God's Work continues.

Income for June showed a 22.23% year-to-date increase and a 9.58% increase for the past 12 months. Regarding media, the response to ads placed in newspapers and newspaper flyers in the month of May gave us a 0.32% response. Very low indeed.

"At a meeting with our advertising agency," said Mr. de Bree, "the decision was made to return to place ads in the TV guides. Six Dutch TV guides cover 90% of the Dutch population. However, only three of the six will accept our ads. Ads are scheduled to appear at the end of August and beginning of September. This is the time that the new TV programmes begin and all vacations are past.

"During the week of June 23rd," continued Mr. de Bree, "we met with various department heads in Pasadena to discuss ways and means to improve Dutch PT circulation. Newspaper flyer response in Holland has been extremely low which, we believe, is caused by the fact that the average Dutchman's mailbox is flooded with all kinds of flyers and free literature. All meetings in Pasadena have been very helpful, and as a result of same we are studying the feasibility and costs involved for a direct mail and newsstand programme to improve Dutch PT circulation."

Appreciation for Ministerial Refreshing Program

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Thank you for the opportunity to come to Pasadena for the Refresher Program. When we read the glowing reports about the first session, we thought to ourselves "It must be good, but it couldn't be that good!" The classes have been not only a refresher, but also refreshing. And most satisfying of all is the knowledge that doctrine and administration is coming through loyal teachers directly from you. We can finally, for the first time in years, know that what we will be teaching is really what God's Apostle wants taught. Thanks again for the direction, balance, stability, motivation, and enthusiasm you are giving us by the power of God's Spirit in you. We will be behind you 100% in every facet of completing God's Great Commission.

Greg and Marian Sargent

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

I just wanted to write and express my wife's and my feelings about the Refresher Course that we had the opportunity to attend. We learned more in the first one or two days than in all the Ministerial Conferences we have attended. It was very reassuring to hear Mr. Tkach and Mr. Blackwell along with the others, teach the things that I remember you teaching years ago. The warmth and friendship of the other ministers in the class was also something that we will remember for a long time to come.

Thank you again for your loyalty and dedication to Jesus Christ. I realize that it hasn't always been easy to make the decisions you have had to make, but there are many of us in the ministry and in the congregations that we pastor who appreciate the effort and sacrifice you have made.

George and Jackie Affeldt

Weekly Letter Comments

The comments for this week express appreciation for Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong's tireless efforts in serving God's chosen people, and in doing the Work of God. Other letters show that God richly blesses His people in many ways for their faithful tithing. Finally, readers express their gratitude for the Work's free literature.

Members Appreciate Efforts of God's Apostle

I am a member of the Worldwide Church of God in Vancouver, B.C. I must thank you for all your writing--every new article is stimulating and valuable. I hope that your book, A VOICE CRIES OUT, will reach many people who have not yet heard of God's truth. So many people don't know that God is real and that He cares for mankind. I hope many people will be awakened to see how great and mighty are God the Father and Jesus Christ.

I do pray often for your health and strength to finish the job that God has given to you. I must pray more fervently and more often for God's guidance in your daily decisions. I believe that the Work will be completed, with you as human head, through God's Spirit. I read recently in the Bible that Christ doesn't take pleasure in human strength, but He has pleasure in those that trust Him! (Psalms 147:10-11.) He must have great pleasure in your efforts, because you have helped thousands of people to trust in God the Father and Jesus Christ. You gave up your whole life --yet as a result you are able to gain eternal life, when Christ returns with the tremendous office He has for you.

You bring to this world a message of the "give" way, and of the results of the wrong "get" way--a message so desperately needed today. I hope and pray that God's message which you deliver will be thundered forth with greater power in these last days. May God speed you in fulfilling His Great Commission! Through the incredible and awesome power of Jesus Christ, the Work will be completed!

With thanks to you.

--Fred W. (Vancouver, Canada)

We have never met and yet you are like a father to me. You may never know just how much you mean to all of us (your children in Christ).

You continually reassure me (and all of us) in your articles and letters. We do indeed need each other and this exchange also includes love. You not only preach and teach "giving," but you also live it. And we love you for it!

I have just finished reading your article on "Am I In It For The Money?" in the WORLDWIDE NEWS (July 14). It pains me to see you explaining yourself. I realize some (a few) people may want to know of your personal possessions, but I for one don't.

God raised you up to be His Apostle and I have known this for more than six years....

If everyone could do your job it would indeed need explaining. But God chose you and I'm not about to doubt or question Christ's wisdom and ability to know what's in your heart! He knows! He put you there!

--Phylis N.

TithePAYERS Blessed in Many Ways

God has certainly kept His Word to me about His promise to bless those who pay their tithes. When I first started, I was in a federal penitentiary earning about 130 dollars per month. Now I have been out for about 18 months. (I would not be out except God arranged it.) I am now making over \$2,000 a month while there are many in this area with the same skills as myself, who aren't working!

J.W. (Selma, CA)

After 22 years of tithing there is no other way for me. Last week I noticed that my shoes were getting a little thin. I just gave it a thought--didn't ask. Now I have four pairs of new shoes, my size, and they didn't cost me a cent. Also my parsnips didn't come up last year, but I received half a bushel of the nicest parsnips, all washed and clean! As they say, "try it, you will like it!"

--Mrs. Reuben W. (Durand, WI)

Seems like each time we write, we have good news to share. In the sixteen years that I have been in the Church, I have personally never been blessed like this. Even the trials aren't so bad--and we know it is because of our faith in God who keeps strengthening us all! We moved a week ago into a beautiful three bedroom house with a finished basement. My mother and sister have also moved up here from Kentucky. Now we are truly a family within God's family. We all really needed this.

--Dave & Marilyn S. (Columbus, OH)

God continues to bless us. After twenty-six years of raising my family I returned to work this past February as a dispatcher for the company my husband works for. After just five months on this job, I have been promoted to terminal manager. I knew when I went to work that I was being trained for this position, but I didn't realize that I would qualify so quickly. God has been with me every step of the way. Now I can tithe on a regular basis which makes me feel more a part of this Work and it will give me plenty of opportunities to build righteous character.

--Mrs. Chlotilde (Corrigan, TX)

I may have mentioned this before, but when I continually pay God His tithes and offerings to be used by His servants to proclaim His Gospel to the world, He in turn sends me His priceless truth and, of course, the other nine tenths of His income. It gives me a great feeling to know that others who hunger after truth can read The PLAIN TRUTH and listen to The WORLD TOMORROW program.

--Robert C. (Bangor, ME)

This year we have worked hard on two large gardens. Recent weeks have been filled with terrible thunderstorms--bringing more than three inches of rain and leaving the ground completely soaked. Last Wednesday another storm passed through sprinkling hail one and one-half inches in diameter. It was too muddy to go into the garden till Friday evening--and then I saw it! The soybeans in the fields around our garden had the leaves all chopped up and full of holes, but the hail had not damaged our garden things at all!! Our garden was skipped and the damage resumed on the other side! Does God bless His people for tithing? Yes, in living ways that can't be counted in dollars.

--Mr. & Mrs. Herschel K. (Chandler, IN)

FREE Literature Appreciated

I wish to thank you for your kindness in mailing your most informative booklets, etc. to me for such a long period of time without asking for a single penny in return. This is a sure proof you are Christian in all you say and do. The Bible prophecies have been eye-opening for me. God bless you in keeping up this wonderful and enlightening Work of good.

--Mrs. Steve B. (Kettering, OH)

Bless you for your great generosity to us. I am in receipt of your booklet THE BOOK OF REVELATION UNVEILED AT LAST! which was sent to me free of charge!!! I can hardly believe this. How that wretched State of California can impugn your integrity when you don't even charge for your literature is beyond me. I am especially blessed as I am living hand-to-mouth and could in no way afford all your fine literature which I profited by greatly.

--Mrs. Shirley H. (Portland, OR)

I have such a deep Christian love for you. Imagine, all these years I have been able to enjoy God's Word through reading your magazine. You have never asked for a penny, and yet it comes in the mail just like clockwork. Many of these years I've been sickly and even on welfare. I would not have been able to afford to buy such an informative magazine.

--Mrs. Lydia R. (South Gate, CA)

I would like to thank you once again for continually sending me your booklets on the different topics. Nowadays everything costs something and everyone is always out there with their hand open looking for some kind of contribution or payment. But you have never pressed me or even asked me for any type of contribution. I would like to thank you for that!!

--Diana B. (Berwyn, IL)

--JOE TKACH, MINISTERIAL SERVICES

MR. ARMSTRONG'S LETTERS DRAW RECORD RESPONSE!

Mr. Armstrong's recent letters to co-workers and members, which offered The UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY, has brought in the best literature response from these groups in the last two years. As of this writing, over 50% of all member households have requested the "US" booklet. Almost one third of all co-workers have requested the booklet.

This is very inspiring and encouraging to those of us in Mail Processing, and is simply one more sign of how God is beginning to pour blessings out upon His Work.

The UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY booklet has been offered by the Work since 1960 (except for the years when it was "on hold") and it has been a vital tool in revealing to our subscribers the true meaning of Bible prophecy in today's world. Thousands of readers over the years have written in to express their appreciation for the exciting, hard-hitting message of the book.

Even with many older copies of the book in members' and co-workers' hands, the response to the offer of this newest, latest edition has been tremendous! It dramatically shows how people are interested in Bible prophecy, and how they look to Mr. Armstrong and this Work for true answers.

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

INCREASING P.T. CIRCULATION THROUGH DIRECT MAIL

One of the most interesting and exciting methods of reaching potential subscribers to The PLAIN TRUTH is direct mail advertising. Boiling down its complex elements, direct mail advertising is simply purchasing lists of subscribers of other magazines and mailing each a letter offering your product.

For over a year we have extensively tested this promotional method and our most recent test mailing of seven different "packages" went to 540,000 subscribers of 26 other magazines. So far this test has resulted in unbelievably high responses compared against industry standards.

Among magazines such as Prevention, Book Digest and Changing Times, we also had a mailing to subscribers of American Business. From this magazine we drew an incredible 12.7% response! Our response from all other purchased lists averages seven percent, which is still far above the two to three percent response considered good by the direct mail industry.

Our plans are to continue testing different lists and developing more attractive and effective direct mail packages. We hope to match and possibly increase our response rate in subsequent testing before an extensive mailing "roll out" to multiply thousands of potential subscribers is undertaken. We'll keep you informed via the Pastor General's Report.

--Publishing Services

ON THE WORLD SCENE

REPORT FROM SOUTH AMERICA--PART 2: ARGENTINA--BACK FROM THE BRINK OF BANKRUPTCY AND SOCIAL UPHEAVAL The flight from Santiago de Chile to Buenos Aires, Argentina--capital to capital--takes only 1 1/2 hours. The miracle of jet travel almost makes one oblivious to the tremendous natural barrier of the towering Andes Mountain chain which, along its summit ridges, separates these two countries of the so-called "Southern Cone" of South America.

The Andes, submerged mostly in clouds, pass underneath too quickly. Soon one is over the more gradual eastern slopes of the Argentine side. The foothills, in turn, soon flatten out into Argentina's most outstanding feature--the fantastically fertile pampas, the "Midwest" of South America. For the last hour of the flight we soar over this expansive plain, laid out in a neat checkerboard pattern of farms and ranches, its many small towns located at regular intervals along the arterial highways and railroads that carry the pampas' abundant harvests to the ports along the Rio de la Plata and out to a hungry world.

The scene is so tranquil that it is difficult to imagine how appalling the economic and social conditions were in Argentina only four years ago. Similar to events in Chile during the same period, Argentina stood at the very brink of international insolvency and outright civil war. Similar again to Chile, new leadership stepped in and applied commonsense thinking to rescue the country from oblivion.

In the very month that the military leaders ousted the ineffective Isabel Peron, who had taken over from her late husband--in March 1976--Argentina's yearly inflation rate soared, for a brief spell, to an astronomical 17,000%! The country's freely disposable international reserves stood at a paltry 23 million dollars. Argentina faced imminent default on her international trade and debt retirement, leading to a paralysis of industry, mass unemployment and to the destruction of the whole economic structure, which could have triggered social chaos among Argentina's 27 million people. Compounding the looming disaster, treasury income was covering only 20% of the national budget. Tax evasion was rife, and controls on interest earnings led to an enormous monetary black market, with buckets of pesos fleeing the country into safer havens overseas. The government was covering 63% of its budget solely through printing more pesos. This was responsible for the whopping inflation.

As in Chile, the junta which took over entrusted the economic program to a new staff of people not beholden to special interests. Led by Minister of the Economy Jose Martinez de Hoz, the economists tackled the fundamental roots of the nation's problem. Martinez de Hoz--called "Doctor Joe" by many--was given a free hand to do what had to be done. Still in office (until March, 1981), Martinez de Hoz said recently: "We have done what an elected government with an election next year cannot do--we have accepted short-term negative effects for long-term progress."

Free at last of the pressures from the Peronistas, the big labor unions and other interests who were responsible for so much of the mess in the first place, Martinez de Hoz sold off 332 state-owned firms, most of them unprofitable and operating at taxpayers' expense. He fired 60,000

employees from the feather-bedded state railway system. (Former President Juan Peron had used the country's handsome profits from World War II sales of wheat to its allies to buy out the railways in 1946, then proceeded to staff the system with Peronista supporters and cronies.)

Next, Martinez de Hoz knocked an opening--apertura--in the entire economy, freeing it up finally to outside imports and investments. As in Chile, this forced sluggish, high-priced home producers to work harder to get into another line of work. The former leadership was, frankly, selfish. They wanted to sell the country's abundant harvests of meat and grains to the world, but at the same time produce their own manufactured goods behind an almost impenetrable tariff wall. The walls have since been coming down, although not as much yet as those in Chile.

Results of this program? I talked for almost two hours with Senor Tomas Donovan, chief assistant to "Doctor Joe," in Mr. Donovan's office in the Economic Ministry. Inflation, he said, is now down to about 80% a year. "Down?" you might ask? Well, it's better than 920% for all of 1976, when the new team took over. And it continues to drop. How do Argentines survive even 80% inflation? Simple--wages are adjusted quarterly, income tax is indexed, and with interest rate ceilings on savings removed, people are putting money in their own banks, not sending pesos to Miami and Zurich. Tax recovery is way up and so are the country's reserves, up to about seven billion dollars--much of it moving into gold.

So Argentina is recovering from what even Time magazine termed "politically-induced poverty," adding that "by almost any measure, Argentina ought to be an economic Eden."

One hears a phrase in government circles in Buenos Aires frequently, reflective of the determination which motivates many of its leaders today. It goes like this: "This time we are going to do it right."

One can't help contrasting the economic fortunes in Chile and Argentina with those of the United States. The United States is only tinkering with its problems. Its leaders don't have the political courage to cut the fat where needed, to accept short-term disadvantages for long-term benefits. In a democracy, perhaps, that is impossible to do. One absolutely shudders to think what the country would be like with Senator Kennedy in the White House--with all of his bloated big-government schemes and controls on economic activities. Would the United States soon see 1,000% inflation too?

One other thing should be mentioned here. Argentina, like Chile, has a bad name for its alleged "human rights" violations. However, most Americans cannot conceive of what went on here in Argentine society before and after the 1976 change. Two vicious--that is the only way to phrase it--guerrilla armies were aiming their guns at government officials and leading businessmen (the Economic Ministry personnel are still a target). These guerrillas were outright anarchists whose aim was to bring down the entire society. They had no real plan for the post-ashes period. They were of the same mold as the Red Brigate who still terrorize Italy. These people had absolutely no regard for "human rights." (I was given a thick book, "Terrorism in Argentina," which detailed shocking episodes of the tactics of these inhumane people.)

After March 1976, the new government decided to fight fire with fire. They determined to root out this cancer in the body politic. Suspected guerrillas were shot first, and then those suspected of offering assistance of any kind, even of an ideological nature. Thousands of people have simply "disappeared." Unfortunately, when a cancer is removed, sometimes healthy tissue is cut out too. Even President Zidela admits that "I accept that a certain number may have disappeared through an excess in repression."

But again, Americans and others who did not live through such a period (though there was the Black Panther raid in 1968) can't make a proper judgment on the situation. Now Argentina is in relative peace, but most of the ringleaders did manage to escape with plenty of cash to continue the battle. Even the middle-of-the-road and sometimes controversial English-language daily in Buenos Aires, the Buenos Aires Herald, said recently, "It is quite clear that now, and for several years to come, there is no possible combination of civilian forces that could not merely provide the country with good government but would also be strong enough to resist the challenges from extremists of right and left, neither of which have any compunction at all about using violence to obtain their objectives."

Other things are happening here in the "Southern Cone" too. More next time, perhaps, with emphasis on another big development--the gradual merging of the interests of Argentina and Brazil, the two big powers of South America. Once rivals, still somewhat suspicious of each other, they are now seeing much more in common, especially as they both view the decline of the United States as a power in the Western Hemisphere.

God's Work in Argentina

In both Chile and Argentina (two highly-literate and impressive countries), the groundwork has been laid, we feel, for increased promotion of La PURA VERDAD, the Spanish-language PT. Mr. Speaks, publicity director for the "PV," traveling with me, acting on instructions from Mr. Leon Walker, director of the Spanish Work, has made arrangements for several large ads to be placed in one of the top-circulation dailies of Buenos Aires, La Arzon. This marks the first time any advertising has been done in the world's fourth-largest Spanish-speaking nation.

Also, while in Buenos Aires, Mr. Speaks and I had the opportunity to meet with a small group of God's people here, about twenty-one baptized members who meet in the suburban area. These people were previously associated with Sardis-type groups that have since, in the last couple of years or so, become members of the Worldwide Church of God. We had a wonderful social event with them in the home of one of the members. It was a truly unforgettable experience for both Mr. Speaks and myself, and all of the members were excited to hear about the progress of God's Work in general, and with the prospects for more advancements in the Spanish-language area.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau