

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

New Regional Director for the Philippines

Mr. Armstrong has announced that after 10 years of dedicated service to God's Work in the Philippines, Mr. and Mrs. Colin Adair are being transferred to Canada to serve in the Vancouver area.

Mr. and Mrs. Adair were assigned to the Manila office in 1970 after pastoring churches in the United Kingdom and Canada. Mr. Adair has seen the Church grow steadily until today we have over 2100 baptized members (the 5th largest concentration of God's people in the world), 20 churches and 27 elders (10 full time).

The new Regional Director for the Philippines will be Mr. Guy Ames. Mr. and Mrs. Ames have served there twice previously as office manager in 1963-65 and 1968-70. They have been working in the Pasadena area for over five years and particularly with the Auditorium AM Church. He and his wife are looking forward to returning to the Philippines sometime in the next few weeks.

Clarified Definitions for Attendance Reporting

Recently, a number of changes have been made in the administrative structure of churches and Bible studies in the U.S. and international areas. To retain the integrity and validity of attendance statistics worldwide, it is necessary to clearly define the terms "church," "outlying Bible study," and "local Bible study."

CHURCH--a group formally approved (by Ministerial Services in Pasadena, or the local Regional Office) that meets regularly at least once a month, on the Sabbath (including Friday evening), using a Sabbath format, and is an ongoing and stable group.

OUTLYING BIBLE STUDY--a group that meets regularly at least once per month, that uses a Bible study format, and is made up of a majority of individuals that are not able to regularly attend church services.

LOCAL BIBLE STUDY--a regularly or irregularly meeting group that uses a Bible study format and is made up of a majority of individuals who attend local church services regularly.

This clarification will probably require no change in attendance reporting for most ministers. However, changes have been made in some church areas which could give us problems maintaining accurate and consistent records if the preceding definitions are not followed. It is needful to keep

church and outlying Bible study attendances separate, and especially necessary to avoid combining the attendance figures for true outlying Bible studies and local Bible studies.

U.S. ministers should realize from the above definitions that there are few, if any, true outlying Bible studies in the continental United States.

More International News

Norwegian Literature Although there are no present plans for a PLAIN TRUTH in any of the Scandinavian languages, there has, however, been a need for certain foundational booklets and the Correspondence Course in a native tongue. This is to help those people who are not particularly fluent in English, but who nevertheless understand enough to require additional "spiritual meat." The best way to effectively communicate with such people is obviously in their native language.

A number of years ago a few booklets were translated into Danish, but now after a more thorough examination of the subject, it has been decided to translate titles into the Norwegian language. This is primarily because it is understood by a greater proportion of the nations involved and will therefore make the material available to a larger number of people.

So far Lessons 9, 10, and 11 of the Correspondence Course are printed, with Lesson 12 in production. Next year it is expected that Lessons 1-8 will be translated, as well as the booklet "Why Were You Born?" Further booklet translations will follow.

Increases in Europe The files have continued to rise sharply above last year's levels, both from advertising and promotion inside Britain and in other areas. For November the files stood as follows:

		% difference over 1979
U.K. & Eire	67,067	+ 61%
Scandinavia	14,161	+ 129%
Continent	13,932	+ 44%
Middle East	4,434	+ 133%

Year-to-date mail over 1979 is also up in all the above areas:

U.K. & Eire	+ 50%
Scandinavia	+ 119%
Continent	+ 61%
Middle East	+ 217%

Income for November saw a healthy 26% increase over a year ago, giving a year-to-date figure of +30%.

Evangelist's Son Healed of Injury

We are very happy to report that Glen, eldest son of Ellis and Gwen LaRavia, is recovering rapidly from the accident on December 7. God has intervened and miraculously healed him of the injury. The parents wish to express their sincerest heartfelt thanks for the concern and prayers of so many of the brethren of God's Church.

A Voice Cries Out: Arab Oil, Israel and the U.S.

-Peace Out of Conflict??

Appeared in Wall Street Journal, December 29, 1980

THE HOT SPOT of world news recently has been the Middle East. It has involved the 52 U.S. hostages in Iran. It has involved Arab oil. And it has involved the Arab-Israel struggle.

Could it be that out of this embroiling caldron of Middle East emotions and historic hatreds is beginning to emerge a new vision of world peace and happy abundance?

In a world whose No. 1 problem now is human survival— in a world of competitive preparations for a world war of nuclear weapons, chemical warfare, poison gas and nerve gas— a war capable of erasing all life from this planet, it's already a bit late for us all to become intensely concerned.

I repeat again and again, there has to be a CAUSE for every effect. There is a basic CAUSE for mankind's problems man is incapable of solving. There is, conversely, a way that could CAUSE peace, universal prosperity and well-being!

Very recently I returned from personal conferences with Prime Minister Menachem Begin in Jerusalem, and President Anwar el-Sadat in Cairo. Could it be possible these two Middle East leaders have started something with President Carter at the Camp David conferences that finally show the world the way to CAUSE PEACE?

And not only Middle East peace, but world peace?

The Egyptian president gave me details of his proposed \$70 million World Peace Center to be erected at the base of Mt. Sinai, symbolic of peace between nations and between religions. Religious antagonisms have caused many wars through world history. His new peace center will consist of a walled-in complex including a mosque, a synagogue and a church, emblematic of peace between the three major religions predominant in the three nations



HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

involved in the Camp David talks.

I repeat, there is one root cause of wars not only, but all this world's seemingly unsolvable troubles and evils, I term it, for brevity, the way of "GIVE"— self-centeredness, and hostile competition leading to strife, violence, war and destruction. The opposite way I term "GIVE"— cooperation, helping, sharing, outgoing concern for the good and rights of others.

Where emotional hostility has prevailed down through the centuries, only vision, willingness to sacrifice ("GIVE") and personal courage in leadership could start the way toward peace.

While she was prime minister of Israel, Golda Meir said to me in her executive office: "I wish Arab heads of state would be willing to sit on the other side of the table with me in friendship and peace. There is so much we could do for their peoples. Our scientists and technicians could help them and their peoples to so much more prosperity and abundance."

On November 20, 1977, President Sadat had the vision and the courage to take the unheard-of, unprecedented step to DECLARE PEACE— instead of war— toward Israel. On that date this leader, braving personal and political risk seldom if ever taken by a world leader, went to Jerusalem and addressed the Israeli Knesset in a gesture toward peace.

Egypt had fought Israel in four wars within 30 years. It was an incredible demonstration of personal courage. Egypt was the acknowledged leader of the Arab world. The headquarters of the Arab League was in Cairo.

Prominent Egyptian leaders and editors abroad were assassinated following this initial peace gesture. Sadat's life was threatened.

After receiving military aid from the Soviet Union, President Sadat had canceled this program and ordered Soviet military aides out of Egypt. Since 1977 Mr. Sadat and Egypt were left with the sole partnership among nations of the United States.

Then came the Camp David peace talks. Mr. Begin joined Mr. Sadat in participating. It is not easy to give up something one has gained. But Mr. Begin gave large portions of the Sinai Peninsula back to Egypt. Now these men are looking toward resolving the touchy question of autonomy of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

And President Sadat plans his World Peace Center emblematic of cooperation in peace at the base of Mt. Sinai.

It is all a BEGINNING of the way of "GIVE"— of cooperation instead of hostility. I for one commend and give honor publicly to these men making a beginning in a harsh world of "GIVE" to the one and only way to peace— that of "GIVE." I am not naive enough to expect all leaders and all peoples to follow in that way.

We have in this world the way that leads to the ecstasy of winning and the agony of defeat. Too many still think they enjoy the "ecstasy," and are willing to risk the "agony." I hope these pages are causing some to THINK!

Because, agree or disagree, this voice is sounding the warning. If we mortal humans don't, it is very soon now going to be done to us! That unseen "Strong Hand from Somewhere" is going to intervene in world affairs and force a stubborn humanity to enjoy peace, happiness and universal abundance— His way, the way of "GIVE."

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
Pastor General
Worldwide Church of God

I suggest you read my cover story in *Quest/81*, on newsstands about March 20, on the Middle East controversy, its origin and President Sadat's planned World Peace Center. *Quest/81* is quite generally regarded now as No. 1 in the quality magazine field— a publication advocating "the pursuit of excellence."

NOTICE TO ALL MINISTERS

Any minister who has questions concerning the following former PM's should contact Mr. Ron Reedy. They are: Miss Denise Delacey, Mrs. Monte Delacey, Roger Gutierrez, and Larry Mauzey.

Appreciation for Ministerial Refreshing Program

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

I would like to take a moment to express my appreciation to you and the Refreshing Program Staff for your part in making the Refreshing Program the useful tool it is. The material given was well organized and relevant to the field ministry. It already is helping Linda and me fulfill our ministerial and Christian responsibilities more effectively. I've been asked a number of times in the past, "What is the 'official' Church policy on such-and-such a subject." I was never quite certain from which set of ministerial conference notes to quote. Over the past few years I began taking conference notes in pencil. It's nice to be able to use a pen once again.

Jim and Linda Lee

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Just before leaving campus, I wanted to thank you for the Refreshing Program. Char and I have had a most refreshing time to say the least. The lectures were directive, candid and balanced. I also wish to thank the Refreshing Program staff for their collective effort, especially Mr. Blackwell, Mr. Salyer and Dr. Hoeh.

Pasadena and the College holds so many happy memories for both of us --so indeed it has been refreshing in the most wholesome way!

We are grateful to you, Mr. Armstrong, for what you have done, and are continually doing in getting God's Church and Work, through Christ, back on the track.

Peter and Charlotte Whitting

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Our minister, Mr. Mitchell Knapp, is back from the Refreshing Program at Pasadena. It sounds like we're going to have some wonderful information passed on to us, from the preview we had of what he learned there. You know how much we are looking forward to this, and I thank you, being God's Apostle, for making all this possible for us.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Freitag

Weekly Letter Comments

We receive numerous accounts from people who are thrilled at learning the truth of the Bible through our publications. People are also voicing agreement with Mr. Armstrong's description in his semi-annual letter of today's moral decline and corruption. They eagerly welcome his revised book, THE MISSING DIMENSION IN SEX. And the brethren truly appreciate and enjoy Mr. Armstrong's Bible study tapes in which he expounds God's Word, as well as comments about his personal life.

Our Literature is a Wellspring of Truth

Just a note of thanks for the superb literature and magazines I have been privileged to read. I have gained much joy and knowledge from all the materials, including your beautiful books. No amount of money can pay for the benefits I have received from my association with the Worldwide Church of God.

Mrs. William R. Gray, Sr. (Lake Park, FL)

I am so glad to have found the real truth of the Bible. When I get started reading the literature from your church, I find it so thrilling and satisfying that I cannot put it down until I completely finish each booklet! I have three children and they are always asking me questions. Before I started reading your material, I didn't know how to answer them because I had the same questions in my own mind.

Pauline Green (Dandridge, TN)

Once again I write you with a request for some more booklets. This is the first time I have really found Bible study so interesting. I cannot help but be truthful with you. For 13 1/2 years I thought I was a Christian and doing God's will, but what an eye-opening I have had since I got your magazine and booklets. I really did not know that I was worshipping paganism with its days, idols, etc. God has given me true knowledge through your booklets. Thank you very much.

A.R.B. (Bradford, U.K.)

I have begun reading some of your literature and now I cannot seem to turn from it. I have always wanted to know just what the Bible was trying to tell me, but I just did not seem to grasp its true meaning. Now that I have a guide to go by, it gets easier to understand and find the true meaning of the Bible.

Ricky Escobedo (El Paso, TX)

I would like to order some more of your booklets. My family has become so intrigued by your literature. We want to learn all we possibly can. It is bringing a definite change to our lives. Thank you.

Lisa Hugo (Memphis, TN)

All of the "great wealth" of materials you have sent has been just that--great wealth! It certainly helps to fill the void left when we became disillusioned with the church we were attending. This literature makes much more sense.

Mrs. Janie N. Spruiell (South Dayton, FL)

Missing Dimension in Sex Welcomed

Thank you so much for updating the MISSING DIMENSION IN SEX. It is very badly needed. My younger daughter is in a local college. The marriage and family course she is taking offers alternatives to marriage, including homosexuality. The world is indeed sick. It is totally disgusting to see what education is being fed to our vulnerable young people. It makes me sick.

Mrs. Delores Schiller (Newbury Park, CA)

I too share your concern and convictions about family life and the "new" morality. It is not morality but immorality. I have two "sets" of grandchildren by two "separate" wives of my dear son. Unfortunately, I have seen the breakdown of family life right in our "own circle." I would appreciate it very much if you would send me three copies of your book, THE MISSING DIMENSION IN SEX--I have a great need to give them to my grandchildren's parents.

Richard Wilkinson (Bridgeport, TX)

I praise God for inspiring you to write the new book THE MISSING DIMENSION IN SEX. I prayed for help with my marriage and our child. I know sex has a great deal, if not everything, to do with my failing marriage. The book will help me so very much.

Mrs. Michelle Gadson (Cincinnati, OH)

Thank you for your most enlightening and interesting letter from Jerusalem. I heartily agree with the fact that family life in America and other countries is deteriorating at a rapid pace. I have asked myself and others, "How can humanity get any lower?"

What nerve calling it the "New Morality." For the most part there's very little morality left in our society. People today are bold as "brass," as the saying goes. They don't know what it means to be ashamed. Our present generation is a different breed--it has grown up with TV illustrating crime from the time they are old enough to watch to their present age. People are what they feed on; no wonder we have such crime among young people. They are stoned out of their minds because of drugs and alcohol. What a waste of humanity.

Eleanore Stout (Dayton, OH)

Just received your letter. How enlightening it was. I am requesting a copy of your book THE MISSING DIMENSION IN SEX. I am seventy-seven years old but have married children who have teen-agers. They are churchgoers but say we are old-fashioned if we do not approve of the way they raise the young ones. They believe in church every Sunday, but will not listen if you try to show them how they are going against the commandments. It seems they all believe in free sex. It is the way the world lives. I am old-fashioned. Why can't they teach their children to live differently? I'm beginning to believe you have to be old nowadays to know right from wrong. What a pity. My prayers are that the next generation will learn differently. Or will it be too late?

Jean Dodge (Crown Point, IN)

Bible Study Tapes Appreciated

We've appreciated your taped Bible study series on the book of Galatians, especially your clarification of the term "works of the law." Not only do you give us scriptural teaching and new insight into prophecy, but you also share some of your private thoughts and sorrows with us. All of this makes Bible study more exciting and profitable. We hope you may be able to bring us more of such tapes to amplify the fine work the local ministers are doing.

Mr. & Mrs. Bill Witte (Ft. Lauderdale, FL)

Thank you for the tapes on I Corinthians. I really enjoyed the Bible studies and all your comments. The background information is so important as it sets the mood for why the epistle was written. Your knowledge of that is invaluable.

Jere L. Rohe (Albuquerque, NM)

Thank you for making your Bible study tapes available to us. I have been a member almost 14 years, but continue to learn new things every single time I hear one of your tapes. We heard the final two chapters of Galatians on Tuesday evening. It was most interesting and profitable. Please continue to send your tapes to us.

Shirley King Johnson (Lincoln, NE)

This is just a short note to tell you how much we are learning from and enjoying the Bible study tapes you have been making. We count it a wonderful opportunity to be able to be taught more by you. Please keep this much-appreciated instruction coming.

Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Johnson (Seattle, WA)

I want to thank you for the taped Bible studies. Not only do I gain spiritual understanding, but I also get to know you personally more than ever before. Even though I have been in the Church for over fourteen years, I feel only now I am getting to really know you.

Neil Yarrington (Fall Creek, WI)

Mr. Armstrong, we really do appreciate the tapes of your Bible studies that we have from time to time at Sabbath Services. We hope the Church can continue hearing them. Thank you so very much. We pray for you, the Work and the Church every day.

Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Alexander (Horse Shoe, NC)

--JOE TKACH, MINISTERIAL SERVICES

FROM EDITORIAL SERVICES

We're swamped! Recently in the Ministerial Refreshing Program I've been encouraging you field ministers to write more for the Work's publications. Judging from past response, I thought we might receive a few manuscripts for review. However, you surprised us with far more than we can publish. We also receive many requests for critiques of articles. Unfortunately, with our small staff this is almost impossible.

Since Mr. Armstrong is writing more and has established definite standards for the material published by the Work, space is limited. Following are a

few guidelines to help us better evaluate and process your submissions from the field:

- 1) Please query us about your proposed article before completely writing it. Send us your idea with a one-page outline and the proposed first page, typewritten, doublespaced. What you intend to write on may already have been addressed.
- 2) Please don't request critiques. If articles need more work before publication, we will tell you specifically what needs to be improved.
- 3) Don't expect an immediate reply. Since we work so far in advance, it may be two or three months before your article is published. Or we might hang onto it for several months because of space considerations. But rest assured we will eventually inform you what's happening with your article.

Please don't view this notice as an attempt to discourage writing. We merely want to save both you and our staff time. We still have an "open door" policy on editorial copy from the field. We appreciate your efforts as we work together to support Mr. Armstrong in fulfilling his commission.

--Dexter H. Faulkner

ON THE WORLD SCENE

ANOTHER EUROPEAN COMMUNITY MILESTONE: GREECE JOINS UP On New Year's Day, Greece became the European Community's tenth--and poorest--member.

Greece's formal induction into the Common Market has been a long time in coming. It became an associate member in 1962 but had to delay further progress while the Greek military took over national power in 1967, not to relinquish control until 1974.

The last step along the road to full membership was reached on May 28, 1979 when official papers were signed by Prime Minister Constantine Caramanlis and representatives of the nine EC countries. Caramanlis said on that occasion that it was a "historical moment that marks the end of a long march and solemnly seals the fusion of our destinies with those of Europe." It was Caramanlis who, in 1961, when he was also Prime Minister, began the long journey. Greece's membership then, in many respects, represents a testimony to the determination displayed by Mr. Caramanlis.

Greece's entry brings both benefits and headaches to both the Community and its newest member. Above all, it changes the orientation of the EC from a basically central and northern European grouping into one with a southern, Mediterranean posture. This new direction will be accentuated when Spain and Portugal also link up, events expected to occur sometime in 1983. And if Turkey becomes a full member--unlikely now, but still possible--the EC will extend right to the doorstep of the Middle East. Greece, in her own right, is an important stepping-stone to the Middle East. It is the hub for 200 American companies doing business in the region. (Greece's ties with Cyprus--80% Greek--are also very close.)

The "southern cousins" knocking on the Common Market door are all considerably less developed than the current members. This is the "headache" part

of the equation. The per capita GNP of Greece is less than half that of the community as a whole, though its growth rate has been faster. Its standard of living is roughly the same as the Nine's poorest state, Ireland. But the gap between rich and poor, between urban and rural, is much more pronounced. (Incidentally, poverty-ridden Turkey's GNP is about a third that of Greece, less than 1/7 that of the EC as a whole.)

Yet, Greece does have its attractive points for the Brussels-based Nine-turned-Ten. By virtue of her membership alone, the Common Market's share of world shipping increases by 50%--from 20% of the world's share to 30%. Greece's vast fleet of 4,000 ships totals 40 million gross tons--the largest fleet in the world. This is especially significant in view of the prophecies in Ezekiel 27 and Revelation 18 concerning an end-time global political-economic power.

The southern expansion of the Common Market also means that Mediterranean-type agricultural products become very significant. "Until now," reports Europe, a semi-official publication of the EC, (July-August 1979 issue), "the Community has been dominated by northern European economic interests, especially those of cereal and dairy farmers. In the future, much more attention will be paid to the interests of Mediterranean wine, citrus, and olive oil producers." Note the specific reference to both wine and oil in Revelation 18:13 (and also the importance of these two products in Revelation 6:6). The German newspaper Frankfurter Rundschau, June 14, 1980, also commented on the inclusion of the three wine-oil producers (Greece, Spain, Portugal): "The wine surplus resulting from the three new members is likely to amount to between 5 and 10 million hektoliters a year. But this problem is not as grave as that posed by Spanish olive oil, the production of which involves two million farmers."

The EC's newest member, however, brings along a few liabilities. Greece's industry is predominantly small scale, most of it consisting of only one to four people. For this reason, industry will have a five-year grace period to adjust to the EC tariff structure and expected competition. On the other hand, Greece will get an immediate windfall from the EC's higher prices for many farm products.

Many Greeks are philosophical about the changes and challenges. Noted one newspaperwoman: "Greeks have a great talent for survival...for better or worse, Greece becomes a part of an affluent, civilized, respectable family. For the first time in her long and troubled history...Why not accept the challenge? What have we to lose?"

Nevertheless, Greece's entry certainly complicates the Community's linguistic and decision-making processes. Greece now becomes the EC's seventh official language (with Spanish and Portuguese looming just ahead). Notes the Europe article, quoted earlier: "One of the biggest organizational changes involves the interpreters and translators who already account for one-third of the total staff employed at the EC Commission....All official documents will have to be translated into Greek, and Greek interpreters will be needed at all major meetings. As it stands now, the Greek government has only 120 official translators. Yet it will need 650 just to translate EC documents and regulations concerning Greece.

This literal "Babylon" is bad enough. Each new country only complicates the political process of the Community. As Europe comments on this problem: "The addition of Greece as the tenth member state will put extra steam on the Community's decision-making process. The EC Council of

Ministers will now have 10 members--which will make it that much more difficult to reach unanimous agreement on major issues, especially anything to do with Turkey. On lesser issues, where decisions are taken by qualified majority, Greece will have five votes out of a total of 63. The number of votes necessary to make a decision will be raised from 41 to 45."

There will also be an EC Commissioner from Greece at the Commission headquarters in Brussels--raising the total number of Commissioners to 14. This will not facilitate decision-making either. A committee of "Three Wise Men" is currently studying what institutional changes will be needed to take account of the entry not only of Greece, but also of Spain and Portugal so that the Community can continue to function efficiently.

The heartland countries of the EC--West Germany, France, Italy--are naturally concerned over the Community's shift to the poorer south of Europe. Politically the move has advantages. A more stable Greece and Turkey helps shore up Europe's southern flank. But many social and economic problems are expected. Will citizens of all the poorer members, for example, be able to circulate freely throughout the entire Community, having the right to work in any country they please, enjoying full work and welfare benefits and the complete range of social and educational rights?

Already, in northern and central member states afflicted with sluggish economies, there are growing negative reactions to the "guest workers" from some of these same countries. Little wonder some EC policy thinkers are now talking about a future two-tiered community, composed first of all of those members having full status and right of movement for their citizens, and secondly, a permanent association status for the other countries. These would enjoy sharing EC political decision-making power, but migration of their nationals would be stringently controlled.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau