

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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TOTAL COMPATIBILITY A MAJOR STEP FORWARD FOR THE PLAIN TRUTH

Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, in a meeting with key Headquarters personnel in Pasadena June 9, gave further direction in his continuing effort to put the Church totally back on the right track. Mr. Armstrong reemphasized that this Work is a religious Work and we cannot or should not deny that fact. This is a Church, he said.

The Work was built by radio and The PLAIN TRUTH, he continued. The television and radio broadcasts direct the people to The PLAIN TRUTH and our other publications. He emphasized that The PLAIN TRUTH is the leading instrument worldwide in doing the Work and preaching the Gospel.

Mr. Armstrong feels the 48-page U.S. PLAIN TRUTH now contains the right balance of religious and secular material. Such a balance cannot be adequately achieved in a 32-page edition. We cannot and must not avoid religion, he said, because we have a spiritual message.

Those international areas with only 32-page editions, therefore, will be expanded to the 48-page U.S. edition, Mr. Armstrong said. We must not cut back in the size of the magazine because it is our main effort--our main and only effort in many parts of the world. The front-line PLAIN TRUTH is not where money should be cut, he said. The areas that need subsidizing to be able to make this change will be supplemented from Headquarters.

The foreign language expansion will begin with the U.S. October-November edition, except for one or two languages which are in desperate need of translators. (We are optimistic that they, too, will be geared up and producing 48-page issues early next year.) The magazines are all to be compatible with the 48-page United States PLAIN TRUTH, including layouts, color, ads, covers and, of course, booklet material offered in the advertisements. We will work to alleviate that problem as we are able.

This change to 48-page compatibility will ensure an approved magazine from Mr. Armstrong, speaking with one voice, saying the same thing, at the same time, worldwide. It is one Work. The savings in production as a result of the full 48-page compatibility of the magazines will offset some of the costs in this important decision.

In addition, Mr. Armstrong mentioned that he is interested in expanding the newsstand PLAIN TRUTH from its present 32 pages to 48 pages. This would offer those who pick up the magazine more material in each issue, in the hope that they would eventually be added to the mailing list. Publishing Services is now examining the possibility of such an expansion in terms of cost.

Mr. Armstrong also announced that The Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course would once again be published monthly. Dr. Herman L. Hoeh will be doing the final editing of each lesson. Mr. Armstrong also said he wrote a letter to all Correspondence Course students offering them a subscription to The GOOD NEWS magazine.

The first volume of the revised BIBLE STORY by the late Mr. Basil Wolverton is off the press now, and Mr. Armstrong OK'd giving it to the brethren at the Feast of Tabernacles this year. Instructions as to how this will be done will appear later.

--Ray Wright, Publishing Services
--Dexter Faulkner, Editorial Services

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

International News

Report From Germany The highlight of the month for the German-language Churches was unanimously Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong's May 29th visit to West Germany. The little Rhein river town of Eltville, near Wiesbaden, a favorite location of ours for the Days of Unleavened Bread and other holy days, hosted some 720 people from the entire German-speaking area, including deacon Heinz Pistorius of Zwickau, East Germany.

As Mr. Armstrong entered the "Rheingau Hall" that afternoon, enthusiastic applause broke out from the excited brethren, thrilled to see God's apostle only 10 months after his August 1, 1981 visit to Bonn. His sermon on the purpose of the Church and how our calling relates to that purpose--"Schooling in God's Character for the World Tomorrow"--was especially inspiring on Pentecost weekend. That evening the meeting hall was converted into a dining hall so we could enjoy a delicious evening meal together.

Due to the Pentecost holiday weekend, several large luxury hotels in and around Wiesbaden accommodated our brethren at greatly reduced rates, which was an added blessing that enabled us to remain together for an all-day Pentecost service on May 30th. A combined midday meal was also served. The offering on Pentecost reached a record DM 47,597 (\$20,694) or 36.5% more than last year! And the attendance was up 18.4% over 1981.

The month of May was once again very busy mail-wise. Regular mail increased 99% over last year! Now that our subscriber list is twice as large as it was in May, 1981 (55,000 compared to 110,000 in 1982), the total mail for the year thus far has doubled. Also, 81% more booklets were sent out in May, 1982. During 1982, 50,000 new subscribers have already been added and there is still another half of 1982 to come! We have been very encouraged by these developments.

This month seven Ambassador College students arrived from Pasadena to take part in a two-month long work-study program in the Bonn Office. In the mornings they work in one of the several departments and in the afternoons they receive German lessons. They are a welcome addition to the office this summer.

News From Canada The current economic stagnation in the nation is, it seems, being reflected in last month's income which was a 2.3% increase over the corresponding period a year ago. The year-to-date figure now stands at a plus 12.3%. Original forecasts for the 1982 budget were based on a 20% increase in income. Since we are running behind our projections by a few percentage points, Mr. Adair is carefully monitoring expenditures to see that we keep within budget. Fortunately, some areas of expense have been less than originally forecasted, giving us the flexibility to allow others to run close to, or slightly ahead of, projections.

Another area of concern is the falling Canadian dollar. As of this writing it had hit an all-time low--less than 80¢ against the U.S. dollar. Each drop means we must pay out more Canadian dollars for the printing of The PLAIN TRUTH or any services we receive from the United States. If it continues to drop, then printing The PLAIN TRUTH in Canada becomes more attractive.

Other aspects of the Work in Canada last month were extremely encouraging. The number of people contacting the Work for the first time is up an astounding 527.4%, which translates into 17,322 requests for literature. Total mail received for the month was 34,791--an increase of 137.9%.

Our latest addition in radio coverage is CJCJ Woodstock, New Brunswick where the broadcast will be heard Monday through Friday from 7:00 to 7:30 p.m. We are also going on KVOS-TV Bellingham, Washington (U.S.A.) five days per week at 7:00 a.m., Monday through Friday, on a trial basis. We are anxious to see what impact the telecast will have in this area.

Appreciation for the Second Ministerial Refreshing Program

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Margie and I have just returned from the second Ministerial Refreshing Program. We wanted to convey to you our deep appreciation for this rare privilege and outstanding opportunity. We were impressed by the high quality of instruction as well as the willingness of the instructors to answer our questions. We certainly can see in our personal lives the benefits of this instruction, and realize how this will also benefit the congregations we serve.

Knowing how busy your schedule must be, we were very appreciative of the time you spent talking to us. The opportunity to attend the graduation ceremony was also appreciated, as it has been fourteen years since I graduated from Ambassador, and I haven't had an opportunity to attend a graduation since. We were inspired by how moving and powerful your message was to the graduates and others attending. It's obvious that God is supplying you with the strength and power you need to fulfill your responsibilities.

We returned inspired and sobered by what we'd learned and seen, and hope we can be as yielded and useful to God at our level as you are on yours. We have benefited so much from these two refreshing programs that we do hope God will lead you to continue with successive programs in the future.

Lyle and Margie Welty

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

We would like to express our appreciation for making it possible for us to attend the second MRP. The pace was more relaxed and the benefits equal to, if not better than, those of the first session. Our thanks also to those who instructed us. Those who are yet to attend have much to look forward to!

Carlos and Ruth Perkins

Mr. Tkach:

We thank the Great Creator God for inspiring the understanding of the overall Biblical principles taught in the Ministerial Refreshing Program. Mr. Armstrong and the men he appointed to teach us showed us how to serve our God in His WORK, in obedience to His Law and His government.

The overall principles taught to us help us appreciate the depth of understanding that God's apostle and the men serving him at Headquarters really do have. Fabulous!

Even more important--perhaps--to me: This deep grasp of the Truth of God lays a foundation upon which to build future sermons; sermons that we can present with confidence, knowing we are on "THE RIGHT TRACK."

Lynn Torrance

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

CONCORD, NH/MONTPELIER, VT--DAN ROGERS: Church in Montpelier is growing numerically and spiritually. Members are truly inspired by Mr. Armstrong's TV programs now seen in the area. All are impressed with his speaking out with such power. Concord had what seemed to be the most inspiring Pentecost ever. God's Spirit was certainly evident in every aspect of it! There's a severe outbreak of the flu along with numerous allergic reactions to the spray being used to fight the area-wide invasion of gypsy moth caterpillars. It's like living through one of the plagues God poured out on Egypt! As Carl Sagan might say, "...there are billions and billions of them."

PADUCAH, KY--JOHN CAFOUREK: Church is enthusiastic and positive concerning the Work. Mr. Armstrong's telecasts in the area are really appreciated. The offering on the Day of Pentecost set a new record.

CHICAGO (WEST & N.W.), IL--ROY HOLLADAY: Tremendous PM activity. Many are new, but the TV program is having a big impact. Baptized 24 new people before the spring holy days. We had over 30 new letters after the holy days. In the Chicago N.W. congregation, people are having trouble coping with stress of jobs, families, etc. Seems like Satan is putting a lot of pressure on families and marriages.

PORTLAND (EAST), OR--JIM HAEFFELE: We are seeing a very noticeable increase in PM's. In April, 30 attended our PT Lecture and half a dozen are now attending Sabbath services. Since the lecture, others have been inquiring and coming to Church as well. Mr. Armstrong's telecasts, The PLAIN TRUTH and Correspondence Course generated this interest in these people. They know this is the true Church.

AUGUSTA, GA--JOHN RITENBAUGH: After going through a lull, the newsstand program is once again beginning to grow. Now that we have the TV broadcast in this area and people who have already been taking the PT are making the connection between the two,

they are requesting visits. Most of these new people came into contact with us through the newsstand program.

MERIDEN, CT--LARRY WOOLDRIDGE: PT newsstand program continues to roll along. Eight new outlets recently opened up in the small town where I live. Christ's message is really going out in Connecticut. This has helped to stabilize and unify the Church.

LONG BEACH, CA--AL DENNIS: The people are really watching world affairs, especially the Falkland Islands situation, as they watch this age wind down. The recession has affected the income of some of the people and some have had to change jobs. However, God is taking care of His people.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

FROM MAIL PROCESSING

PLAIN TRUTH Comments From Around the World

Readers from around the world are finding The PLAIN TRUTH an informative and thought-provoking magazine of real understanding. This week's comments about The PLAIN TRUTH come from subscribers in many countries who have written to express their enthusiasm for the magazine.

I would like to thank you wholeheartedly for the introductory issue of The PLAIN TRUTH. This magazine was God-sent--an answer to a prayer. I found it so honest and informative that I couldn't put it down until I had read it cover to cover. I would also like to add that I am living proof of the article, "The Movement to Destroy the Family," and am happy that other people can see what is happening today. I have realized that God moves in mysterious and wonderful ways.

B.S. (Brantford, Canada)

I am writing to say how much I have enjoyed reading The PLAIN TRUTH...I now understand more of the world's problems. I have seen much suffering in Africa where I came from, but never thought much about it until I started reading The PLAIN TRUTH.

R.S. (Derby, U.K.)

Just a short note to say how much I look forward to receiving The PLAIN TRUTH magazine. I find the religious articles very thought-provoking and interesting, and the current affairs articles are certainly up to date. You seem to have an uncanny knack of being able to look into the future.

D.W. (Dundas, Australia)

I'd quickly like to relate to you how enjoyable your magazine is, which I've been subscribing to for about a year now, and on top of that, free of charge. I really have the impression that the articles are "true," while other publications are slanted or colored in one direction or another....Also, because your Editorial Department has connections worldwide, your political contributions have vision, which I miss in other publications.

Finally, I want to mention that despite its realism, the positive attitude of your magazine gives me much courage. I reach for your magazine whenever I have problems or worries of any kind.

B.K. (Erlangen, West Germany)

Your May issue of The PLAIN TRUTH was the best magazine I've ever read. My fourteen-year-old son read the articles also. For years I have been warning him about the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse. Fortunately he is not a drug user, and because of you, I don't think he ever will be. The chart of common drugs and the effects they have on the body, in the middle of the magazine, shocked him so much that he hung it on his bedroom wall for his friends to see. The May issue of your magazine will probably save many lives. Thank you for publishing it.

Mrs. J.S. (Niagara Falls, Canada)

I am a Health Education Officer for the Hawkes Bay Hospital Board and am engaged in education for drug and alcohol problems (as well as many other areas of health).

The May, 1982 PLAIN TRUTH had many articles on drugs and alcohol which I found extremely interesting. I would like to hand out copies of it at my talks, along with other materials. I would like to have copies of the issue for that purpose...100 copies would probably suffice. What I liked about the articles was the emphasis on spiritual content in understanding and treating the drug dependent.

Dr. P.E. (Napier, New Zealand)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center