

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



VOL. 4, NO. 47

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

DECEMBER 10, 1982

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

International News

Caribbean News The Feast of Tabernacles 1982 was observed at seven English-language Feast sites throughout the Caribbean. Barbados, with an attendance of 556, was host to the largest group. Attendance at the other sites was as follows: Bermuda, 489; Tobago, 465; Bahamas, 429; Jamaica, 376; St. Lucia, 235; and Guyana, 114. The total attendance of 2,664 was 10% more than the Feast last year.

The offerings for the two holy days during the Feast showed an increase of 17% over last year's offerings. The total offerings, when worked out in relation to the total attendance, gave us an average of U.S. \$19.32 per person.

The highlight of October was the apostle's visit to the island of Bermuda on October 31st. Mr. Stan Bass, Regional Director for the Caribbean, and Mr. Roland Sampson, Pastor of the Bermuda Church, along with the majority of the members, were present at the airport to meet and welcome Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong. During his three-day stay in Bermuda Mr. Armstrong was able to meet with the Deputy Governor, the Premier, and the U.S. Consul General. He also gave a PLAIN TRUTH lecture Monday night, November 1st. The next day he departed Bermuda for the next leg of his journey.

Total incoming mail for the region during October was 39% more than October, 1981 and 6.2% over September. Mail containing money showed a tremendous increase--94% over last October and 96% over September!

The total income received in October was boosted by the Feast of Tabernacles. October's income was 44.2% greater than October of last year and 29.5% greater than September. It was the largest amount received for any month of this year so far.

Report From Utrecht The Dutch language area was blessed by God with an unforgettable Feast of Tabernacles. Peace and unity were the dominant factors at the Feast, with a record attendance of 446--an increase of 29.5%. The offering on the first day resulted in a 14% increase. Offerings on the Last Great Day resulted in a 13.4% increase.

Plans call for fall and winter advertisements for the promotion of De ECHTE WAARHEID (Dutch PLAIN TRUTH). In November a front-page ad in a Dutch language Belgian winter paper having a circulation of 2,200,000. And in February of 1983 a flyer will be placed in the monthly magazine of the Netherlands Automobile Association which has a circulation of 1,000,000.

Also in February, 1983, we will be able to place for the first time a full-page ad on the back cover of one of the Dutch TV guides, TROS KOMPAS, which has a circulation of 900,000. As a result of this fall and winter ad

campaign we hope that our total list of subscribers will be boosted from the present 40,000 to 60,000.

Income for the year to date increased by 9.5%. Incoming mail showed an increase of 52%, and church attendance was up 17.4% while membership increased 9.7%.

NOTICE TO ALL MINISTERS

Eva Rivers Krueger was recently disfellowshipped and has indicated that she will attend whenever and wherever she chooses. She is currently living in the Seattle area, but being an airline employee she may try to attend services anywhere. Please contact Mr. Earl Roemer if you have any questions.

Appreciation for the Second Ministerial Refreshing Program

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

My wife and I attended the Refreshing Program last August. We appreciated the meaty information and have gone over our notes many times since we returned. We've been able to utilize the information in many practical ways in order to serve God's people here in Buffalo. Thanks very much for the very fine program. We are deeply thankful, as well, for the loyal teachers and advisors that God has provided to assist you at Headquarters.

We were also gratified to see the "Behind the Work" film at the Feast. It really helped to see how you interface with many people at Headquarters--this helped us to see you are so very personally involved with all the vital aspects of God's Work. It was very inspiring to see how enthusiastic you are about the many areas of the Work! Many brethren appreciated this about the film. Our prayers are always with you.

Chris and Diane Beam

Dear Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Tkach:

This letter has been long in coming but the subject has not escaped our prayers or our hearts. We wish to thank you very much for the second Refreshing Program, with its inspiring fellowship and reaffirming and uplifting lectures. It seems the first Refreshing Program highlighted our loyalty in God's Work and this second one focused on our duties within the Work as His servants of His people. We have made many positive changes in our own lives as a result and are trying to establish more and more solid work habits to really produce and get the job done. We are continually inspired by your tireless example of service and are honored to walk in your footsteps as you serve Christ.

Lloyd and Marcia Briggie

Dear Mr. Tkach:

I wish to thank you and your staff for the 11th session of the Ministerial Refreshing Program. My wife and I enjoyed fellowship with the other ministers, most of whom we did not know before, and especially the stimulating meetings.

I'm sorry we did not get to meet with Mr. Armstrong personally, but his taped message was, nonetheless, very thrilling and inspiring. The Work seems to be on the threshold of bursting through the top of the graphs and charts that were shown us. It is exciting to see what God is doing with His "clay models." I feel very honored to have a part in this great Work and thank Mr. Armstrong and Ministerial Services for the help and support through the MRP. With this material I plan to feed the sheep in my care and hopefully we will all make it through this evil age into the wonderful world tomorrow.

I hope there will be a third Refreshing Program. These opportunities to go to Headquarters are MUCH needed and appreciated.

Larry and Bonnie Greider

Dear Mr. Tkach:

This short note is to express our appreciation for the 11th session of the Refreshing Program. I had not been to Pasadena since 1968 and my wife since 1961. It is awesome to find such an atmosphere of peace and joy in our present world....

Of all the blessings we received (classes, food, entertainment, etc.), I feel the most important is the fellowship with fellow ministers from around the world. To see God's Work in many countries, to know we all speak the same thing, to feel the love and encouragement we can all share was very important to me.

The staff members from Ministerial Services were all very helpful. Andre helped in many ways to make us feel welcome; Glenn helped us arrange our transportation home; and Dick even carried our luggage! They all made a great impact on us with their sincere warmth and service.

I hope Mr. Armstrong will continue this program even though I probably won't have the resources to return. But we are still excited three weeks later and know it will last a long time. Thank you all again for a great blessing.

Joe and Brenda Emmerth

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

PUBLISHING SERVICES UPDATE

Newsstand Distribution to Hold at Current Levels for 1983

We certainly appreciate the enthusiastic efforts of the ministry and the newsstand representatives in your support of the Newsstand Distribution

Program during 1982. The results of those efforts have been extremely rewarding in terms of PLAIN TRUTH circulation growth and in dollars saved by the Work of God.

We now have 14,000 outlets and over 7,000 brethren involved in the program throughout the United States. The members have dedicated much of their personal time to the success of the program. If the Church had to pay for this distribution service through an agency, it would cost us \$1,500,000 per year! Through their and the ministry's diligent efforts, the brethren have brought to the attention of people throughout the U.S. a much greater awareness of God's truth through the Newsstand Distribution Program. Mr. Armstrong has stated that a person just picking up The PLAIN TRUTH magazine at a newsstand outlet has received a witness.

Presently there is a substantial amount of money being invested in the newsstand program as the result of a decision made last summer by Mr. Armstrong to expand the newsstand edition to 48 pages, making it identical to the subscription PLAIN TRUTH. Mr. Armstrong felt that this would allow for a greater variety of material to appeal to a broader spectrum of readers, therefore increasing newsstand response through broader reader interest. Therefore, this increase in the size of the newsstand edition will be our newsstand expansion for 1983.

We are in the process of reviewing our total distribution in the U.S. in order to maximize the program. Unfortunately, because of limited funds at this time, we are unable to accommodate the numerous requests that are coming in asking for extra magazines for the various outlets around the country. However, your requests will be considered in this study, and if at that time we can reallocate magazines to your respective areas, it will be done.

In 1983 we will need to draw upon your expertise and dedication even more than in 1982. We will be working towards maximizing public awareness to the magazine and improving its visibility through better, more prestigious outlets. Further information on this subject will be forthcoming in our Circulation/Newsstand Newsletter. Keep up the good work!

PT Receives Unusual Visibility In Oregon

The GAZETTE-TIMES of Corvallis, Oregon, Tuesday, November 16, 1982 carried a headline in the sports section, "OSU's Taylor Barks Plain Truth." Mr. Lionel Taylor, assistant football coach for Oregon State, while addressing an audience at Nendel's Inn in Corvallis regarding the background of Oregon State's football problems, appeared before the audience clutching a PLAIN TRUTH magazine in his hands. After addressing the crowd with a very lively commentary regarding his football status, it was reported that Mr. Taylor ended his speech by stating that he hoped his football team's record would change with the upcoming Saturday afternoon game. With that concluding remark, Taylor was reported as picking up his PLAIN TRUTH magazine and sitting down.

The newspaper article was sent to us by Mr. David Mills, Pastor of the Salem and Albany, Oregon churches, who noted that we had a display of our magazines in the Nendel's Inn, where apparently Mr. Taylor picked up his copy of The PLAIN TRUTH.

U.S. Ambassador to Canada Picks up Newsstand PT

Mr. George Patrickson, assistant to Regional Director Mr. Colin Adair, forwarded the following letter from Mr. Adams to Mr. Adair regarding the United States Ambassador to Canada picking up The PLAIN TRUTH from a newsstand in a barber shop.

Thought you would be interested in this bit of information passed on to me by one of our PT distributors in the area. One of our local outlets downtown is a barber shop. Due to its proximity to "the Hall" it seems many government people frequent the place.

This last month the American Ambassador to Canada entered the shop and was attracted by our cover showing Mr. George Shultz, newly appointed U.S. Secretary of State. (Sources at the barber shop informed our representative that Mr. Shultz and the Ambassador had conferred just days before.) The Ambassador read the PT during his haircut and was apparently impressed enough to send someone by later that day to procure additional copies for the embassy staff.

--Ray Wright, Publishing Services

MAIL PROCESSING UPDATENovember Brings Another All-time Record!

At the risk of sounding redundant, we would like to report yet another all-time record! Swelled by the continuing influx of semiannual letter responses, the November mail count reached 438,817 pieces, the most ever received in a single month. According to the records we have on hand, this is more mail than was received by the Work during its first 17 years!

The Power of the Printed Word

Over the years Mr. Armstrong has recognized the part our literature can play in bringing people to God's way of life. This week we are featuring letter comments that show how recent PLAIN TRUTH and GOOD NEWS articles, as well as some of the booklets, are bringing about positive changes in readers' lives.

I am studying your booklet, The TEN COMMANDMENTS....Like most Christians in this world, I had been living a lukewarm existence. Your booklets have helped me understand exactly what God expects me to do as a Christian. I had heard the phrase, "the Ten Commandments" many times, even read them, but I know now I've never fully understood them. Thanks to your booklet, I'm now beginning to understand and obey God's laws.

J.Z. (York, PA)

I just read your book THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY and had to tell you how much it has opened my eyes. I wish every one would read it. I'm almost 60 years old and knew nothing of these things, although I go to church. What a sad thing that is. From now on I'll be keeping God's Sabbath on the right day.

A.F. (Yountville, CA)

For the first time in my life I realize that, of my 57 years on this earth, seventeen were spent worshipping in a pagan religion. As I read THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY, it hit me like a thunderbolt. I decided not to put my foot in another Sunday service.

H.Y. (Orange, NJ)

Your magazine is the truest and most complete study of the past, present and future that I've ever received. It has answered more accurately and clearly than I ever thought possible some of the questions that I've been asking for the past decade or more. It has helped my health, peace of mind and most importantly, it has given me the very religion that I've been searching for my whole life.

A few months ago I received a PLAIN TRUTH which had an article about the dangers of smoking. Until I saw that article, I had been smoking for over ten years. After carefully reading this information, I took what cigarettes I had left and threw them away, not wanting to give them to anybody, as they would cause that person harm. I am very glad to say I have not had any desire whatsoever to smoke since. I can't thank you enough.

R.P. (Shelton, WA)

I would like to tell you how much I appreciated the article, "Suicide--Its Causes and Cure." Due to a lot of stubbornness, stupidity and bad habits, I am no longer welcome at home and have lost many dear friends. I know what it is like to be on the edge, deciding between life and death.

I was at the point of considering suicide when I picked up The PLAIN TRUTH and read your article. It inspired me to try a little harder to change and become the girl my friends and parents would be proud of and the type of person God would want me to be.

I know it will take time to change and regain the love of those around me, but I deeply love my parents, friends, church and God. Through prayer and with God's help I will change and never think of taking the easy way out through suicide. Thank you so much.

(Vernonia, OR)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

UNIVERSITY LIFE TODAY: AIMLESS, NIHILISTIC, CORRUPTED BY DESTRUCTIVE FEMINISM

Much of the decay in modern Western society is fostered in its institutions of higher learning. This is especially true regarding the state-run schools and large private universities which have been all but divorced from the philosophical moorings of their founding churches. One of the most incisive criticisms of university life and (mis)education appeared in the December 10, 1982 issue of NATIONAL REVIEW. The article, titled "Our Listless Universities," was written by Allan Bloom, professor of the Committee on Social Thought and the College at the University of Chicago.

Professor Bloom is an expert on the philosophers of the ancient world. Here are some of his comments:

I begin with my conclusion: students in our best universities do not believe in anything, and those universities are doing nothing about it, nor can they. An easy-going American kind of nihilism has descended upon us, a nihilism without terror of the abyss. [Nihilism, according to WEBSTER'S SEVENTH NEW COLLEGIATE DICTIONARY, is "a doctrine that denies any objective ground of truth and especially of moral truths." It is a "viewpoint that traditional values and beliefs are unfounded and that existence is senseless and useless."]

The great questions--God, freedom, and immortality, according to Kant--hardly touch the young. And the universities, which should encourage the quest for the clarification of such questions, are the very source of the doctrine which makes that quest appear futile.

The heads of the young are stuffed with a jargon derived from the despair of European thinkers, gaily repackaged for American consumption and presented as the foundation for a pluralistic society....One suspects that modern thought has produced an artificial soul....The new soul's language consists of terms like value, ideology, self, commitment, identity--every word derived from recent German philosophy, and each carrying a heavy baggage of dubious theoretical interpretation of which its users are blissfully unaware.

The new language subtly injects into our system the perspective of "do your own thing" as the only plausible way of life. I know that sounds vaguely passe, a remnant leftover from the Sixties. But it is precisely the routinization of the passions of the Sixties that is the core of what is going on now, just as the Sixties were merely a radicalization of earlier tendencies....

The insatiable appetite for freedom to live as one pleases thrives on this aspect of modern democratic thought....There are no absolutes: freedom is absolute. A doctrine that gives equal rights to any way of life whatsoever has the double advantage of licensing one's own way of life and of giving one a democratic good conscience. The very lack of morality is a morality and permits what Saul Bellow has called "easy virtue," a mixture of egotism and high-mindedness. Now, in feeling as well as in speech, a large segment of our young are open, open to every "lifestyle."

This licentious approach to life (Gal. 5:19), notes author Bloom, "masquerades as the essential democratic theory." A corollary of this way of thinking is constant vigilance against any person or group who "discriminates" against anyone else's way of life. Every lifestyle (such as homosexuality) is as acceptable as any other. No one lifestyle, religion, political philosophy or economic system is any better than any other. "Judging by the fruits" is irrelevant and is indeed "prejudicial" or "discriminatory." Continues author Bloom:

Schools once produced citizens, or gentlemen, or believers; now they produce the unprejudiced. A university professor confronting entering freshmen can be almost certain that most of them will know that there are no absolutes and that one cannot say that one culture is superior to another. They can scarcely believe that someone might seriously argue the contrary; the attempt to do so meets either self-satisfied smiles at something so old-fashioned or outbursts of anger at a threat to decent respect for other human beings. In the Thirties this teaching was actually warring against some real prejudices of race, religion, or nation; but what remains now is mostly the means for weakening conviction when convictions have disappeared....When we talk about the West's lack of conviction or lack of will, we show that we are beginning to recognize what has happened to us. Exhortations to believe, however, are useless.

Professor Bloom then proceeds to give three conclusions that he has derived from longtime personal observation of the ways and attitudes of students as they proceed through their university careers. These conclusions involve books, music and sex--the latter dealing especially with the pernicious influence of feminism upon the modern student's entire approach to human experience, what is of historical value (very little) and what is not (almost everything).

1. Books. They are no longer an important part of the lives of students. "Information" is important, but profound and beautiful books are not where they go for it. They have no books that are companions and friends to which they look for counsel, companionship, inspiration, or pleasure....The link between the classic books and the young, which...is the only means of connecting the here and the now with the always, this link has been broken. The Bible and Plutarch have ceased to be a part of the soul's furniture, an incalculable loss of fullness and awareness of which the victims are unaware.

The old books are still around, but one "knows" that they contain mere opinions, no better than any others....It means the young have no heroes, no objects of aspiration....

2. Music...Many students do not watch much television while in college, but they do listen to music....And classical music is dead, at least as a common taste. Rock is all there is. There is now one culture for everyone, in music as in language. It is a music that moves the young powerfully and immediately. Its beat goes to the depth of their souls and inarticulately expresses their inarticulate longings. Those longings are sexual, and the beat appeals almost exclusively to that. It caters to kiddy sexuality, at best to puppy love....

The most powerful formative influence on children between 12 and 18 is not the school, not the church, not the home, but rock music and all that goes with it. It is not an elevating but a leveling influence. The children have as their heroes banal, drug- and sex-ridden guttersnipes who foment rebellion not only against parents but against all noble sentiments. This is the emotional nourishment they ingest in these precious years. It is the real junk food....

3. Sex. No change has been so rapid, so great, and so surprising as the change in the last twenty years concerning sex and the relations between the sexes....

The great change in sexual behavior has taken place in two stages. The first is what was called the sexual revolution. This meant simply that pre- and extra-marital sex became much more common, and the various penalties for promiscuity were either much reduced or disappeared....But even more powerful than all of the above changes are the effects of feminism, which is still early in its career of reform and is the second stage of the great change of which I am speaking....

There is an almost universal agreement, among those who count for university students, that feminism is simply justified as is.... [Elitism--which would include racism and sexism, the author states elsewhere, are the "paramount sins of the day."] Women today have, to use our new talk, an agenda. Also, it is their movement, so they are involved and excited, have much to talk about. The men, on the other hand, are waiting to be told what is on the agenda and ready to conform to its demands. There is little inclination to resist.

All the principles have been accepted; it only remains to see how to live by them. Women are to have careers just as do men and, if there is to be marriage, the wife's career is not to be sacrificed to the man's; home and children are a shared responsibility; when and if there are to be children is up to the woman, and the decision to terminate or complete a pregnancy is a woman's right. Above all, women are not to have a "role" imposed on them. They have a right of self-definition. The women were the victims and must be the leaders in their recovery from victimization. The men, as they themselves see it, have to be understanding and flexible....

The result is a desexualization of life, all the while that a lot of sexual activity is going on, and a reduction of the differences between the sexes....Sex is all right, but it creates a problem....Dating is almost a thing of the past....Above all: no courtship or courtliness. Now there is friendship, mutual respect, communication; realism without foolish fabulation or hopes.

Author Bloom then concludes by projecting the disastrous impact that feminism, fostered in the universities, has upon the entire educational process:

This conviction has as its first consequence that all old books are no longer relevant, because their authors were sexists (if they happened to be women, they were maimed by living in sexist society)....And in the absence (temporary, of course) of a literature produced by feminism to rival the literature of Sophocles, Shakespeare, Racine, and Stendhal, students are without literary inspiration....These are the tenets of the egalitarian creed, and today its primary tenet is that the past was sexist.

Of course, the Bible is viewed by the feminist revolutionaries as perhaps the most "sexist" book of all. Professor Bloom's analysis should make us realize that the impact of feminism upon education and society as a whole is here to stay--E.R.A. or no E.R.A.! Educated men, afraid of appearing to "discriminate," are supinely conceding the victory to the feminist cause.

This world's institutions of higher learning, cut off from God, could never be relied upon to dispense God's Truth. That we realize. Author Bloom admits as much when he states that "the meaning of life is unclear, but that is why we must spend our lives clarifying it rather than letting it go. The university's function is to remind students of the importance and urgency of the question and give them the means to pursue it." But because of the inroads of nihilism, egalitarianism and now feminism, the original character-shaping function of the university has gone by the boards. Education in what one might call "worldly righteous" character--high moral standing, patriotism, etc.--is no longer relevant. "The university," Professor Bloom states, "has no vision, no view of what a human being must know in order to be considered educated."

Thanks be to God that He has used Mr. Armstrong to put Ambassador College back on the track, rescuing it from the blackened, moral abyss of the educational system in the "enlightened" Western world.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau