

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



VOL. 5, NO. 43

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

NOVEMBER 23, 1983

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

1984 Feast of Tabernacles in China

Information has recently gone out to the members and pastors in the United States and Canada from the Festival Office regarding the 1984 Feast of Tabernacles in China. We are expecting an enthusiastic response from the brethren.

In order to forestall any disappointment from overseas, we thought it best to mention at this point that only U.S. and Canadian residents will be able to attend the Feast in China. This is to streamline the process of visa approvals and such matters. Since the Chinese government is very careful about groups entering the country, we thought it best to keep the process as simple as possible this year. If we are able to sponsor this type of activity in future years, perhaps that restriction could be eased.

NOTICE TO MINISTERS IN THIRD WORLD AREAS

Second-hand Bibles Available

Do you have members or PMs in your churches who need Bibles? Ambassador College Outreach, a service group of Ambassador College students, would like to make available to you free used Bibles for distribution to those who have a genuine need. These Bibles are second-hand King James (Authorized), New King James (Revised Authorized) or Revised Standard versions donated by members in the Pasadena area. Some may have marked margins. Please contact Mr. Rod Matthews in Ministerial Services if you could use some. Since Outreach does not know if they can easily meet the overall response, please restrict requests to the actual number needed right now in your area.

International News

From Australia The backlog of mail which accumulated over the Feast period has now been cleared. During the September/October period over 30,000 letters were received and processed.

This count is slightly less than the number of letters received during the same months in 1982, but demand for the Church's publications continues to be high. During September and October we mailed out 50,329 envelopes containing literature to interested readers. This represents a 62.9% increase over the same period last year.

Final responses from Australian PLAIN TRUTH subscribers to Mr. Armstrong's May, 1983 semiannual letter have now been received. Readers responding to Mr. Armstrong's offer of free literature totaled 6,318--10.8% of the mailing list. Of the four booklets offered, ARE WE LIVING IN THE LAST DAYS? was most often requested.

Response from Asia to Mr. Armstrong's letter will continue to come in for some months yet. So far 9,235 requests have been received, representing 22.5% of the mailing list.

Income for the month of October registered an excellent 29% increase over the same month last year. However, this fine increase is partly due to the carry-over into October of income received during the Feast of Tabernacles which fell at the end of September. Our year-to-date increase in income now stands at 10.5%.

Advertisements offering The PLAIN TRUTH were placed this month in four leading magazines--WOMAN'S DAY, NEW IDEA, THE BULLETIN and NEWSWEEK. This is part of our ongoing program to increase PLAIN TRUTH circulation in Australia. Responses to these advertisements are now beginning to come in.

Also this month, the first of a series of advertisements pointing viewers to "The WORLD TOMORROW" telecast appeared nationwide in TV WEEK magazine. These advertisements are designed to make the viewing public more aware of Mr. Armstrong's program and local viewing times.

Shortly after the Feast we had the pleasure of a visit from Mr. David Hulme, Director of Media Purchasing for God's Church. He and Regional Director Bob Morton met with our media agents in Sydney to discuss plans for future advertising in this country.

Canadian Report October has been an excellent month for the Church financially. The combined incomes of September and October have brought the year-to-date increase to 13.9%. If we can maintain this percentage of growth through the remainder of the year, it will ensure us a healthy position beginning the 1984 calendar year.

October saw next year's budget drawn up. Most areas of the budget were increased in expectation of growth. Unfortunately, we will not be able to assist as substantially in the International area as in previous years. Even with this reduction we will still pour back 63.7% of all income received into the "First Commission."

September/October mail figures are as follows:

Total Incoming Mail	81,651 (plus 9.5%)
Total Outgoing Mail	208,251 (minus 27.2%)

During the corresponding period last year we mailed out Mr. Armstrong's semiannual letter, thus the minus figure in outgoing mail.

First responses to the Direct Mail Program began to trickle in towards the end of October. The real flood of responses is expected to arrive during the second and third weeks of November, when an estimated 10,000 per week will pour in through the mail. We will need a number of part-time helpers to assist us in processing this surge in workload.

We have averaged just over 1,000 calls per month on the WATS line for the first ten months of the year. While encouraging to see, this number still falls far short of what we had hoped. Canadians, it seems, are not as eager to use the telephone in responding to the telecast and radio broadcast as their counterparts in the U.S. They seem to prefer the more traditional method of corresponding via the mail.

Since the Feast of Tabernacles, a number of ministers have held Public Bible Lectures with good results. The response in previous years was around one percent of the invitations mailed. It now averages two percent. Mr. Colin Adair's lecture in Calgary was attended by 102 new people. In Kitchener, 120 new people attended lectures given by Mr. Terry Johnson.

We look forward to 1984 and hope we continue to experience such positive growth.

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

From the Caribbean

BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS--ARNOLD HAMPTON: The Grenada situation has surprised Caribbean nations as to the degree of Communist infiltration into the region. And it has alerted the Church as to the perilous situation facing the Caribbean. I have wondered why we have had such a sizeable increase in income in the area. With the recent situation, I wonder if God will open the doors for one final thrust before closing them. It sounds ominous, but the handwriting is on the wall.

HAMILTON, BERMUDA--CECIL PULLEY: "The WORLD TOMORROW" telecast has been moved from Wednesday evenings to Sabbath mornings at 9:00 a.m. The brethren seem pleased to have it on the Sabbath. We should reach an entirely different audience.

GEORGETOWN, GUYANA--PAUL KRAUTMANN: Spirits are high after the Feast. A much closer feeling of love and unity exists among the brethren.

KINGSTON, JAMAICA--CHARLES B. FLEMING: The Church is very stable in terms of attitudes and conduct.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSING

Nearly 50 Million Publications Mailed in Ten Months

A total of 49,458,440 publications were mailed in the United States during the first ten months of 1983. This record total includes all printed material--magazines, books, booklets, letters, Bible correspondence course lessons, etc.--and represents a 17% increase over last year's ten-month count. Never before in the history of God's modern-day Church has the Gospel been published in such volume.

Computer Improves Personal Correspondence Department's Efficiency

As the Gospel reaches more and more people, the workload of the Personal Correspondence Department continues to increase. So far this year, over

40,000 letters have been answered. Our PCD staff of writers has kept abreast with this large amount of work through a specially-designed word processing program in Data Processing's IBM 4341 main frame computer.

The computer continues to prove its tremendous value to the Church. It is now helping Personal Correspondence to serve the majority of those writing in with greater efficiency and accuracy. The writers are able to compose their letters using a keyboard and terminal screen connected to the computer. Thus they are able to easily make additions or other modifications as necessary. Also, information on commonly asked questions is stored in the computer and can be accessed whenever needed.

Letters composed via computer are printed in a few seconds by using a laser printer--many times faster than the most skilled typist. By entering the recipient's subscription number, the correct address is automatically printed on an envelope.

Lives Turned Around by the Truth of God

Many people, whose lives are being changed by the truth of God, write to share their excitement about finding this new way of life. After years of confusion, doubt and suffering, they are truly grateful to understand God's truth. Many come to the point of repentance and want to surrender their lives to God. Following are a few of the letters we have received from such people.

Almost a year ago my best friend started receiving your booklets. She told me some of the things you said but I thought you were crazy. I'm sorry I did. I felt I was close to God and thought I knew the Bible. After some months, I finally requested some of your booklets myself. I searched the Bible trying to prove you wrong. I couldn't.

May I now say, I'm sorry for persecuting you. I came to realize I'm the one who is wrong. And I thank God that He opened my eyes to the truth. And I thank you for all the booklets you have sent to me. They really helped show me the truth of God's Word.

I now understand what sin is and that I am a sinner breaking God's law. I want to do God's will and keep His commandments. I see for the first time how evil I and the rest of this so-called Christian world is. How deceived I've been. I have prayed for God's forgiveness. I really want to do His will. I would like for you to send someone to talk with me. I want to be able to keep God's laws and be baptized.

D.H. (Chatsworth, GA)

Just a note to express my great appreciation to you for the personal sacrifice you have made in this great worldwide Work. I was a very confused individual four years ago. I had nearly destroyed myself with the pleasures of this world and came to the point of utter despair. I had sunk about as low as one can in sin and deprivation, almost losing my wife of fourteen years, and losing my means of support and what little property I've acquired over the years. Then God began to reveal Himself to me as my hope and refuge.

Under God's direction, the Church reached an eager and attentive ear. My life took on new meaning, my marriage was salvaged, I learned of the great human potential and repented of a life of sin and selfishness. The part you played as God's eager and willing servant in turning my life around is only one small part of the value of your efforts. I love you and stand behind God's Church 100%.

H.L. (Menasha, WI)

In 1953 I was but a child of 10 years of age. I grew up in a family with tremendous discord and strife, alcoholism, and a great lack of outgoing concern for one another. I was in a world without answers and lived with much confusion. My father never spoke over a handful of words to me and died early in my life. I barely knew him.

I write you a much belated letter of sincere thanks over 30 years later at age 40, to say you, Mr. Armstrong, with God's Church, were all that ever helped me make it through my youth. I spent many very lonely, crying and unattended days and nights as a youth waiting for love and direction in my life from those around me. It never came from them, but Mr. Armstrong, you were always there. Your voice was what carried me through my entire youth. Your voice was all that ever offered me anything that was sure, secure and positive in my life.

Through you I had become quite different than all those around me. There were so many pitfalls in life sitting before me that I could have easily fallen into.

Thank you again and again more times than I can ever say or repay for being there and for filling a young mind full of God's way of life. Thank you for doing what no other man could ever have done for me.

J.S. (Louisville, KY)

As far back as I can remember, I have been searching for the right door that would open to bring me closer to God. I have belonged to churches that did nothing for me. I always went away empty. But I never gave up hope, knowing my faith would carry me through. I stopped attending church, but never stopped praying. And, lo and behold, my answer came. In October, 1982 I learned of The PLAIN TRUTH magazine. After reading the first issue, I was overwhelmed with what was taking place. After the turmoil of all those years, I began to feel calm and happy. This was the answer I had been waiting for.

Since then, I have been requesting all the reading material you have to offer. I just completed the third lesson of the Bible correspondence course. Now I truly know the meaning of hungering and thirsting after righteousness and now I am being filled. I believe wholeheartedly that God has called me to be a co-worker and I accept this position most graciously. My prayers now are that I will go all the way. With God's help, I know I will because I want to.

R.H. (Piscataway, NJ)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

MISSILES, REAL AND MYTHICAL On November 22 the West German parliament, by 286 votes to 226, reaffirmed that nation's commitment to deploy NATO's new intermediate-range nuclear weapons, the Pershing II and cruise missiles. This was done in the face of near total rejection of the NATO plan on the part of the opposition Social Democratic Party. The SPD has veered sharply to the left since 1979 when it, as the party in power, initially approved the scheme. In fact, former SPD chancellor Helmut Schmidt was one of its greatest promoters while in office, believing the new missiles would more firmly "couple" Europe's defense to America's strategic arsenal. How times have changed.

Moscow reacted sharply to the decision in Bonn. For West Germany, it said, "the Rubicon has been crossed," and that it had succumbed to "overseas nuclear fanatics" (the Reagan administration) who only want to turn the country into a launch pad for more missiles targeted on the Soviet Union.

The first of the controversial Pershing II rockets should be on West German soil shortly. Their deployment awaited only the positive Bundestag vote. And in America the same weapon figured, in the background at least, in the long-awaited (and highly promoted) ABC television movie, "The Day After." The 2½-hour long film about nuclear destruction in Kansas drew an audience of over 80 million Americans in an estimated 38 million homes. Afterwards, a large portion of the audience remained tuned in to watch a panel of experts discuss the merits of the film and the nuclear peril in general.

The producers had a specific political point to make, and hoped that the audience, scared by the simulated horror of a nuclear attack, would adopt their view: that deterrence is outmoded and that only a nuclear freeze, or something akin to it, offers hope. In the film, the implication is made, via background TV and radio news bulletins, that it was the deployment of U.S.-made Pershing II missiles in Europe which began the fateful chain of events. Here is how David S. Broder, in his column in the November 16, 1983 LOS ANGELES TIMES analyzed the intended purpose of "The Day After," and similar TV programs or motion pictures:

Dramatizations of the tragic consequences of nuclear war can be seen at the movie theaters in the film "Testament" and on the home screen Sunday night with the much-publicized "The Day After." All this is designed to produce a spasm of revulsion among Americans at the consequences of nuclear war. It will almost certainly have that effect. Coming at the start of a presidential campaign in which the Democratic challengers have been steadily increasing the rhetoric of their commitment to "end the nuclear arms race," the effect on policy decisions--both here and in Moscow--cannot be exaggerated.

So it behooves us to think clearly and calmly about the most important issue in the world. The potential of death and destruction on an unprecedented, almost unimaginable, scale has been there since we and the Soviets exploded our first nuclear weapons. That is why U.S. Presidents of both parties, over a period of more than 30 years, have accepted as an imperative both the maintenance of the nuclear deterrent and the pursuit of nu-

clear arms control.... It is important that our rightful revulsion at the consequences of nuclear war does not blind us to the fact that the system of mutual deterrence has prevented that war from occurring.

Edward Hume, the scriptwriter of "The Day After," is quoted in the NEW YORK TIMES as saying, "I would like to see people start to question the value of defending this country with a nuclear arsenal." That attitude is dangerously wrong. It can bring on the catastrophe that all rational beings want to prevent.

In the discussion panel that followed, former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger said virtually the same thing, calling the film "a simple-minded notion" of a very complicated question. He added that if the Soviet Union feels that the United States has mentally disarmed itself, "then precisely what we've seen tonight will happen."

Brent Snowcroft, head of the bipartisan Snowcroft Commission examining the deployment of the MX missile, touched on the dilemma confronting the United States and mankind in general. "There is no simple solution, no simple nostrum," he said. The Soviets, he added, take such signs as nuclear freeze or disarmament as "signals of weakness." Elie Wiesel, a Jewish philosopher basically agreed, adding that the whole picture frightened him, and that "I can't see realistically the way out." (He wondered later, if I recall correctly, whether the answer did not lie in the improvement of human nature.)

Conservative editor (of the NATIONAL REVIEW) William F. Buckley was, as to be expected, the most outspoken. Nuclear disarmament does not stand a chance given the nature of the adversary relationship between Moscow and Washington. What was necessary, he said rhetorically, was to "do a lobotomy on the men in the Kremlin."

Overall, the nuclear freeze side came off best. It was their show; they wrote the script and stood to gain the most. One night later, ABC's "Nightline" originated from Lawrence, Kansas, story locale of "The Day After" episode. The audience (many of whom were University of Kansas students) was overwhelmingly pro-freeze (perhaps it was stacked that way). One townswoman said she believed the real issue still involved standing up for freedom, not to be intimidated into a peace-at-any-price posture. She received an applause--from one person in the back of the room.

Pro-freeze movement leaders began mobilizing their forces behind the film last spring, organizing screenings of pirated copies of the film and laying the groundwork for "trauma workshops" to be offered to shaken viewers after the actual playdate, to help them cope with anticipated despair. But journalist Tyler Marshall, writing in the November 21, 1983, LOS ANGELES TIMES noted there is a touch of evangelism to such offered help:

The purpose of such gatherings is not solely therapeutic; there was an aspect of recruitment to them. Participants...will be urged to "commit to do something that will assure there is a future." Writing congressmen regarding a nuclear freeze will be a recommended course.

The Facts Are Far Worse Than the Movie Portrayed

All of the above discussion on how to prevent a nuclear war by no means nullifies the actual evidence of what such a war would produce. Scientists know a lot more today than they did 38 years ago what the impact of a full "nuclear exchange" would be. On the post-film discussion show, astronomer Carl Sagan said that such an exchange in the northern hemisphere could usher in a long "nuclear winter" and initiate a series of events which could lead to the possible extinction of the human species. Sagan and others recently met in a symposium in Washington, D.C., to examine the "nuclear winter" hypothesis. Here is a report on their findings as published in the NEW YORK TIMES, October 31, 1983:

The long-term environmental impact of a major nuclear exchange would make life tenuous, perhaps impossible, for survivors of the initial blasts because the world's climate would be drastically altered, according to a scientific study. The evidence will be presented at a two-day conference on "The World After Nuclear War," which is to begin here Monday to discuss the long-range biological consequences of large-scale use of nuclear weapons. A summary of the findings, made available in advance, warns that the climatic and optical aftereffects of a nuclear exchange will produce a cold, dark world in which the production of food may be impossible; surface water supplies would be frozen to a depth of several feet. Radiation would be far more widespread than previously estimated, according to the findings, and toxic gases from the combustion of such chemicals as dioxin, PCB's and vinyl chloride would present another grave peril. "These long-term effects, when combined with the direct casualties from the blast, suggest that eventually there might be no human survivors in the Northern Hemisphere," the report said. "Human beings, other animals and plants in the Southern Hemisphere would also suffer profound consequences."

Carl Sagan, one of the principal authors of the study, said in a telephone interview that the new research shows "a set of previously unanticipated dire effects of nuclear war...." The authors of this study ran computer models of the likely effects of the dust and smoke created by nuclear explosions at different levels of explosive force. The study selected as the most likely scenario an exchange involving 5,000 megatons, or about one-third of the currently existing nuclear weapons. A megaton is the equivalent of a million tons of TNT. Existing estimates, Dr. Sagan said, are that in a nuclear exchange of that magnitude, 1.1 billion people would die immediately and another 1.1 billion would be severely injured. Within weeks after such an exchange, according to the report, soot, smoke and dust from nuclear fires and groundbursts could reduce the amount of sunlight at ground level to a few percent of normal. "An unbroken gloom would persist for weeks over the Northern Hemisphere," it said.

For the next months, the light filtering through this pall might not be adequate to sustain photosynthesis, the process by which plants convert sunlight to food. At best, the reduced light could severely limit growth "and the consequences would cascade through all food chains," the report said. The lack of sunlight

could cause a "harsh nuclear winter" with temperatures dropping as much as 25 degrees centigrade [55 degrees Fahrenheit] in in-land areas, the report said, adding that many areas could be subject to continuous snowfall, even in summer. If the nuclear exchange occurred in spring or summer, virtually all crops would be killed in the Northern Hemisphere. Many animals would die of thirst because surface waters would be frozen over in the interior of continents, the report said.

"Contrary to the conclusions reached in most earlier studies," it said, "nuclear war probably would have a major impact on climate lasting for several years." Because radioactive debris in huge quantities, an estimated 225 million tons over a few days, would be carried through the atmosphere, exposure to radioactive fall out would be much more widespread than predicted by current estimates, the report said.... Contrary to previous studies, which have assumed that the Southern Hemisphere would suffer relatively minor consequences from a nuclear exchange by the superpowers, this study says "rapid interhemispheric mixing" of dust and smoke could subject the Southern Hemisphere to "massive injections of nuclear debris." Tropical forests and other tropical life systems, unable to cope with suddenly lowered temperatures, might be severely damaged or destroyed, the report warned.

"It is clear that the ecosystem effects alone resulting from a large-scale thermonuclear war would be enough to destroy civilization as we know it in at least the Northern Hemisphere," the researchers said, adding that there might be no human survivors.

A report on the same findings appeared in the November 7 NEWSWEEK:

One billion people killed before the mushroom cloud even dissipates...an equal number doomed to slow, agonizing deaths. And then the nuclear war claims its next victim: planet Earth. Months of twilight shroud the globe and temperatures plunge 55 degrees, killing nearly all plant life. The ecological systems that once supported the earth become so devastated, says ecologist George Woodwell of the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Mass., that "the potential effects extend even to the extermination of Homo sapiens."...

In the 5,000-megaton scenario being presented by Cornell's Carl Sagan, the intense heat from the blasts would set off firestorms, in which the very air is so hot that everything flammable ignites. Sweeping over large areas of the world, the storms would burn both stored chemicals and those used in construction and manufactured products. The air would fill with the poison fumes of carbon monoxide, dioxins and cyanides, threatening survivors and producing an acidic rain that would make today's look distilled. The holocaust could also heat soils enough to kill dormant seeds, says biologist Paul Ehrlich of Stanford University, and with them one of the few hopes for making the earth bloom again soon. Furthermore, with air around a nuclear fireball heated to more than 3,000 degrees Fahrenheit, photo chemical smog would form. Once in the stratosphere, it would destroy some 50 percent of the ozone layer, the thin band of gas

that absorbs the ultraviolet light capable of inducing mutations and cancer.

Then would come darkness. Within a week after the war, some 200 million tons of sooty smoke would create what Stephen Schneider of the National Center for Atmospheric Research calls "a blacktop highway three miles up." The smoke would absorb so much of the sun's rays that less than 5 percent of the normal amount of light would reach the ground, causing a constant gloom that would choke off even photosynthesis, the process by which green plants convert sunshine to food. If the war broke out in spring or summer, when plants are most vulnerable to cold snaps, virtually all land plants in the Northern Hemisphere would be damaged or killed, says Ehrlich. Without this first link in the food chain, every higher organism would risk starvation....

The panelists on the ABC discussion and the scientists who devised the latest theories confirmed the reality of Matthew 24:22--"And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened" (RAV). One thinks too of Zephaniah 1:14-15--"The great day of the Lord is near...a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness."

One curious aspect of the public and scientific concern over an all-out "nuclear exchange" is that nearly all attention is focused on U.S.-Soviet relations, almost to the exclusion of the spread of nuclear technology to other nations. In this light, it is significant that in the past week, Argentina announced its latest breakthrough in nuclear technology. Reported THE WALL STREET JOURNAL:

...The fact that Argentina is producing enriched uranium on a pilot scale puts it just a step away from becoming the first Latin American country able to make an atomic bomb. And if the Argentines did decide secretly to become a nuclear power, there is little that the U.S. or other nuclear powers could do to stop them. Despite heavy pressure...Argentina refuses to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. As a result, all the critical facilities in its production chain that could lead to a bomb are outside the safeguard surveillance mechanisms of the United Nations' International Atomic Energy Agency.

President-elect Raul Alfonsin issued a statement promising that he would "exercise tight control over all our nuclear policy...to limit this development to strictly peaceful uses." ...But the Chileans, who are locked in an explosive border dispute with the Argentines, weren't so convinced. "From the military aspect, the announcement is a threat," said a Chilean government consultant on nuclear matters. "They claim it is for peaceful purposes, but the pace of their program is so intense that sooner rather than later they can reach the status of a country with nuclear war capabilities."

The "nuclear genie" is indeed out of the bottle and there is no way man can put it back.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau