



The Worldwide News

OF THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

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PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

JAN. 8, 1990

Texas communities welcome college's expansion in area

By Jeff E. Zhorne

PASADENA—News of the consolidation of Ambassador College in Big Sandy appeared in Big Sandy area newspapers, including the Big Sandy & Hawkins Journal, Longview News-Journal, Tyler Morning Telegraph, Gladewater Mirror and Gilmer Mirror.

The highest-rated television newscast in East Texas aired the story, as did most of the area's major radio stations.

Thomas Delamater, director of College Relations & Development in Big Sandy, was interviewed by two radio stations.

"We called several community and civic leaders to inform them personally of the consolidation decision," said Mr. Delamater, "and, as expected, they were excited by the move."

He added, "People seem genuinely pleased about the prospect of growth at the college."

Mr. Delamater told the news media that the move is likely to have a significant economic impact on nearby communities.

Growth in the area

During a telephone interview, Big Sandy Mayor Johnnie Baird told *The Worldwide News* that the community is looking forward to an increase in people and growth in the area.

"From what I understand, 500 more students will be coming down here and I haven't heard how many faculty. In Pasadena, you'd never miss 500 students. But when you

add 25 here, you notice!"

Mayor Baird was on hand Dec. 7 for ground-breaking ceremonies for the new administration building and a reception.

Gladewater Mayor Jackie Wood indicated that real estate will benefit, as will businesses.

"There's one house a block from my home that was bought by a Church member," said Mr. Wood. "It's a nice piece of real estate that's been on the market for some time, so we're glad to see that kind of activity."

"I think everybody in Gladewater would be happy to see the influx of new people in town," Mayor Wood said.

"Downtown is pretty lively and that's created new eating places we didn't have before. It's improved considerably in the past two years. I think the move by the college will help even more."

"I know all the merchants are excited about the new population being in the area."

Transition begins

Richard Thompson, acting provost of the college, said: "Everyone here is working quite hard to make sure the students and faculty are well received and that Texas welcomes their coming to continue with the college."

"With a lot of help and cooperation from everyone, the transition will be smooth and with few problems."

The telephone response section is moving from the Humanities Com-

plex to the lobby of the Festival Administration building.

"We hope to coordinate all activities of CONTEL [Continental Telephone] and the campus within two weeks," said Mr. Thompson Jan. 2. "All 95 phone lines should be up and operating by then."

Mr. Thompson said a water main under a corner of the new administration building was removed, readying contractors to begin construction the third week in January.

Students gear up

Amy Houseman, a sophomore in Big Sandy, believes the consolidation will offer many new opportunities. "I think the Pasadena students will really like it out here."

Beth Harrison, a junior who works in Student Services, said: "I think the strength of the faculty will be a big bonus, because we are combining the best with the best. The personalities here on campus will be great."

BUILDING SITE—Boxed area shows the location of the new administration building to be constructed on the Big Sandy Ambassador College campus.



PERSONAL FROM Joseph W. Tkach

Dear Brethren,

I appreciate the overwhelming display of support and enthusiasm from ministers and brethren about the consolidation of Ambassador College in Big Sandy.

Preparations for construction of the student residences and one lecture hall are proceeding well. This move will greatly facilitate our plans for the entire college to become accredited at the earliest possible date.

I want to emphasize again that we would not be in a position to be able to make these important decisions for the future strength of the Work without the diligent and faithful sacrifice of God's people.

I know that so many of our brethren have and are doing all they can to support the Work. That earnest dedication on the part of the membership further highlights the reasons that I am firmly committed to finding the most cost-effective and efficient means we possibly can to do the Work.

It was also deeply encouraging and heartening to read the many cards and letters expressing gratitude and appreciation for the

fined to ourselves only, how can that way of life serve as an example to others?

In times past, some have felt it might be wrong to participate in or belong to community service organizations. The fear was that it might cause a person to become too involved with the ways of this world.

God calls us out of the sinful ways of the world, that is true. But the parable of the good Samaritan should tell us how God feels about doing what we can for those who are not part of our own circle of relationships.

Clearly, a Christian should not be part of groups that overdrink, tell dirty jokes, watch immoral entertainment, use illegal sub-

God has called us to live a way of life that reaches out to others, that cares and takes action to help those in need. We cannot limit ourselves to merely telling others how they should live.

Church's donations to the Red Cross relief funds for the San Francisco Bay Area earthquake and Hurricane Hugo.

Reaching out to others

As God's people, we need to understand that God has called us to live a way of life that reaches out to others, that cares and takes action to help those in need. We cannot limit ourselves to merely telling others how they should live. We must ourselves practice what we preach.

The light of God's truth cannot shine if we hide it under a basket. If the love and good works produced by God's Spirit in us (Colossians 1:3-6) are con-

stances or promote sexual immorality. But to volunteer for or contribute to community service projects that aid people in need is part and parcel with the way a Christian mind should think.

If we are Christians, then let us live like Christians. It is not enough to talk the talk. We must also walk the walk.

Some, on the other hand, prefer getting involved in service to others above meeting their responsibilities at home toward their own families.

Rather than facing the need to work on relationships at home, they find refuge in helping others away from home. The service

(See PERSONAL, page 3)

Epidemic in Nigeria: members need prayers

BOREHAMWOOD, England—Many children and adults have died in an epidemic in Imo State, Nigeria, reported David Stirk, business manager for East and West Africa in the British Office.

Mr. Stirk reported Jan. 2 that the government could not identify the cause of the disease or how it is spread.

Symptoms include fever and vomiting.

Edmund Oyehialam and his fam-

ily, members in the area, lost their oldest daughter to the disease, and their second daughter is ill.

"Our ministers in the area have reminded the brethren of the basic Bible-based hygiene principles," Mr. Stirk related.

Clean running water is not readily available in many parts of Nigeria, making proper hygiene difficult.

Most African diseases are water-borne or from polluted water, according to Mr. Stirk.

"We are asking for prayers for our members who are living in these areas."

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Brethren spared injury after quake in Australia

BURLEIGH HEADS, Australia—Church members escaped injury and death after the worst earthquake in Australian history shook the Newcastle area at 10:27 a.m., Dec. 28.

The 10-second quake measured 5.8 on the Richter scale. It was the first in the nation to involve injury and loss of life.

Robert Fahey, regional director

for Australia and Asia, said, "Because building codes have not been set with earthquakes in mind, scores of buildings collapsed in the quake, crushing their occupants and showering pedestrians with rubble."

"All the Church members in the Newcastle area have been contacted," Mr. Fahey said. "And all are safe. A few suffered very minor property damage."

Eastern Europe: victory for democracy?

PASADENA—Staggering events climaxed the last months of the 1980s. It was as if an unseen hand smashed the entire edifice of communism throughout Eastern Europe, climaxing with a bloody uprising in Romania in December.

The picture that emerged of the liberated Romanian nation was full of pathetic reminders of just how grim life was under Nicolae Ceausescu's 24-year dictatorship.

News accounts relayed moving stories of Romanians lining up at food houses for long-unseen supplies of fresh fruits and vegetables, quality meat and chocolate bars.

Children who had not seen an orange before unknowingly bit into the rind as if it were an apple.

The warehoused food would have ordinarily been exported to Western countries as part of the government's policy to repay foreign debt and acquire hard currency. Although Romania has historically been the garden spot of southeastern Europe, for much of the past two decades Romanians benefited little from their nation's bounty.

Even in 1975, when Dexter Faulkner and I visited Romania, we were appalled at the poor quality of

WORLDWATCH

By Gene H. Hogberg



food. We saw sausages that were almost pure fat, with only a hint of pink. Meanwhile, U.S. troops in West Germany feasted on the finest cuts of Romanian beef.

Romanians endured bone-chilling winters with heat inside houses kept below 60 degrees Fahrenheit (16 Celsius) for the government to save on foreign exchange.

Electric lighting was limited to one 40 watt bulb for each room. Electric bills were monitored. Excessive use was punished with fines equaling two months' wages.

Meanwhile the Ceausescu government spent enormous sums to build an elaborate government complex in Bucharest, the capital.

The tide of anticommunist revolution may not necessarily stop at the borders of the Soviet Union.

During the last days of 1989 President Mikhail Gorbachev was confronted with an unprecedented challenge on the home front when the Communist Party of Lithuania declared independence from the Soviet Communist Party. Lithuanian party leaders share the same goal as other reform groups there—a totally independent Lithuania.

Seeing all that happened in 1989, many in the West are proclaiming victory for the Western ideals of democracy and capitalistic free enterprise. The Cold War is over, they say, and the West has won.

Marxism-Leninism indeed, may not recover. But what many fail to understand is that the 1990s may be the undoing of democratic capitalism as well.

Tumultuous days may lie ahead,

more akin to the revolutions that spread over Europe, beginning with the French Revolution in 1789.

"What has transpired in Eastern Europe in 1989," wrote author and historian Robert Rudney in the Dec. 29 Los Angeles Times, "is a veritable political revolution sweeping away a discredited and dissolute *ancien régime* and catapulting to power a group of reformist leaders with minimal political experience and nebulous social programs....

"Perhaps there are parallels—and even lessons—to be drawn from the momentous events of 1789.... In each of these historic moments, the fall of a tangible symbol of oppression marked the political collapse of the hated elite. In 1789, it was the Bastille; in 1989, the Berlin Wall....

"By August, 1789, the political revolution...had been achieved. What remained was to rectify the

social and economic injustices that ran contrary to the revolutionary ideals of liberty and equality.

"This task proved much more difficult to accomplish. In Eastern Europe today, reformers are only beginning to grope through the immense social and economic miasma that they have inherited."

Mr. Rudney stressed that "historical analogies can be taken only so far." Yet, he pointed out one aftermath of the French Revolution to remember in assessing today's revolutionary conditions in Eastern Europe. "The inherently unstable nature of revolutionary change may generate internal demands for a strongman, a Bonaparte."

Conditions may become ripe for the eventual emergence of a new European strongman, to whom the national leaders may have to turn.

More than 25 years ago, Belgian Euronationalist Jean Thiriart predicted an eventual crisis in the Western capitalist world.

"As the Common Market grows
(See EUROPE, page 3)

European Diary

By John Ross Schroeder



Just between friends

By Dexter H. Faulkner

Life's commitments

If commitment wasn't such a long word, it would undoubtedly be one of the four-letter words of our time. *Commitment*—it even sounds scary.

We often use little sayings about unkept promises:

"Promises are like pie crusts, made to be broken."

"Quick to promise, slow to perform."

"Promises are like money, often made in large amounts but seldom kept."

Yes, we are cynical about commitment, and often for good reason. During any year, there is one divorce for every two marriages. Two new commitments made—one old one being broken.

How many times has someone failed you? You've been promised that your car will be repaired by a certain time. When you go to pick it up, it's not ready. And even worse, even when it is ready, it still doesn't work.

Someone promises to meet you at a particular time. They don't show up. They may even forget to call to apologize for their oversight.

Commitment hasn't always been a bad word. It used to be quite a good word. It was right up on the level with words like *loyal, dedicated, steadfast, trustworthy*—all good words you would use to describe your best friend.

What does commitment mean to you? Is it a good word or a bad one? I'm not saying it isn't a scary one, because nobody should take this word lightly.

I've heard it said that you're not really ready for life until you know what you want to say when you're dead, that is, on your tombstone. That's an interesting idea to pursue for a moment. You fill in the blanks. "Here lies _____, known for his or her commitments to

desk that asks, "Is what you are about to do bringing you closer to your goal?" I ask you the same question about your commitments today.

I'm afraid too many see commitment as drudgery—something that will cramp their style and keep them from having a good time. Many people want the results of commitment; however, most are unwilling to pay the price.

Why are we so eager to improve our circumstances, but so reluctant to improve our lives? Some say, "I'm too young to get all worked up and committed to anything!" Still others say: "I'm over the hill. Time is no longer on my side."

No one is too old or too young to

So how can we be sure we measure up to God's standard? Let me give you three principles that can help you be better motivated to stick to your commitments.

(1) Be sure you understand what you are committing yourself to. Commitment to anything requires an understanding of the purpose of what you are committed to, whether it be to God or to another person. What purposes, demands, goals and rewards are involved?

(2) Next, be sure to count the cost before making a commitment. One of the problems of marriage today is that couples say, "I do," without realizing what marriage is all about. People's expectations of marriage or of a mate can be very different from the reality.

(3) Then, be sure you believe and have faith in the cause. It takes faith to be truly committed to anything or anyone.

Permanent commitments in a world of change seem out of place to many, but our commitment to God and his way must be for life. There's no furlough from the Christian life. You can't put it on a shelf and walk away.

Once you have rightly directed your attitude, the possibilities are

Once you have rightly directed your attitude, the possibilities are endless for living out the joy that soars from a life of commitment.

make a significant contribution. You and I can choose to live a life of commitment at any time with an attitude that says I can and I will. There are simply no more excuses.

We don't have to ask how God looks at commitment. Commitment is a central part of God's thinking and mind. God says what he means and he does what he says. God doesn't waver. Commitment is a rock-solid characteristic of God's character, and he expects the same of us.

"Yes, I will" or "Yes, I do" are the most important words you can say to someone else. When you say, "Yes, I will" to God during baptism, to your spouse when you get married, to your boss when you accept a job, or to anyone, you are binding yourself for the future. You have made a commitment. God says it's better to refuse to make a commitment than to say we will do something and then not do it.

endless for living out the joy that soars from a life of commitment.

Often, people say, "I'm unhappy," as if happiness were somehow supposed to be the ultimate purpose of life. I've found just the opposite. Usually I'm happiest when I'm not even thinking about being happy.

Happiness and joy are always by-products of my commitment to a task, a person, or an idea, often in the midst of intense struggle—even pain. But without question, my greatest happiness comes in service to others and in my commitment to projects, people and plans bigger than myself.

Our commitment may flag and fail at times, but God—and his mercy—never fails us. Philippians 1:6 assures us that God, who has begun a good work in us, "will complete it." We can take hope and rejoice that God is committed to us.

If this is truly what you're committed to, how are you doing? How did you do yesterday? What has been your progress today? A friend of mine has a little slogan on her

BOREHAMWOOD, England—All the charm and euphoria of the Eastern European revolution came to a screeching halt with the revolt in Romania.

Jubilation turned to grief. Deliverance was bought in buckets of blood. As the carnage of Romania unfolded on television, another bloody legacy was making its way into history.

Thousands of innocent victims wound up in mass graves—a monstrous indignity to the noble purpose of human beings.

Many thousands died in Romania. Secret police destroyed much needed blood supplies so the injured could not be treated.

Yet the sad truth is, except to grieving relatives, these people tend to become mere statistics—unnamed numbers who died in the liberation of Romania. Most of us live far away from the agonies of Eastern Europe.

Violent death marks much of our 20th century. Former U.S. President Richard Nixon wrote in 1999—*Victory Without War* that "one hundred twenty million people have been killed in 130 wars in this century—more than all those killed in war before 1900" (page 13).

Retribution for tyranny

Norman Cousins observed in *Human Options*: "Nothing multiplies more easily than force. Whatever man's other shortages—food, learning, work—he has no shortage of devices or instruments for expressing his raw anger."

"Guns have a way of materializing more readily than the commodities that sustain life or the undertakings that dignify or enlarge it" (page 87).

History is full of bloody legacies. The more monstrous the tyranny and the worse the excesses, the more lives that seem to perish. It seems to work in a sort of mysterious retribution.

Romania has been deeply wounded—psychologically, economically, politically and physically. Thousands are said to have been murdered and many thousands wounded as well.

Undeniably, the excesses of the Nicolae Ceausescu government are

unconscionable.

Historian Paul Johnson wrote in the Dec. 26 *Daily Mail*: "The 24 years of the Ceausescu dictatorship reduced Romania, which in terms of natural resources is one of the richest countries in Europe, to total destitution."

"Even before this evil man fell, the people were literally crying for bread."

Proverbs 28:15 sums it up superbly: "As a roaring lion, and a ranging bear; so is a wicked ruler over the poor people." This is an apt description of the Ceausescu regime. But at the end of the day it was corrected by its own excesses.

A certain amount of rough, uneven justice sometimes occurs among this world's nations.

U.S. President Abraham Lincoln, in a broad and balanced conception, comprehended the Civil War dead and wounded in terms of 250 years of slavery.

Responsibility did not rest solely with the fighting generation of 1861 to 1865. Their fathers, grandfathers and great-grandfathers played their part in causing the Civil War.

Similarly, all the rigors of Romania cannot rightfully be laid at the feet of one man and his family. Not even Adolf Hitler was solely responsible for all the evils of the Third Reich.

Sir Winston's wisdom

We have not seen the end of it all in Central and Eastern Europe. At least one more terrible tyranny will arise—exceeding the Romanian regime in scale and wickedness.

One recalls the words of Winston Churchill in the final volume of his World War II history, *Triumph and Tragedy*. The theme of this book was: "How the great democracies triumphed and so were able to resume the follies which had so nearly cost them their life."

Conditions that caused the first and second world wars are resurfacing on the European Continent. It is as if 40 years of communism had suspended history.

Now all the old quarrels about borders and disputed territories are back with us. They will probably become steadily more intense as the 1990s progress.

Church receives some unusual items Peculiar packages puzzling

By William Butler

PASADENA—The Mail Processing Center (MPC) handles 31,000 letters each working day. Not all these are routine. Some are unusual and humorous.

William "Bill" Butler is supervisor of telephone response in the Mail Processing Center.

Here are some of the unusual things that have come to headquarters over the past 20 years.

It is amazing that some letters make it to Pasadena the way they are addressed. Postal employees in the major postal centers across the country see so many thousands of cards and letters for God's Work in Pasadena that they recognize Church mail even when addresses are incomplete.

One letter was simply addressed "Crime Booklet, Pasadena." Another was addressed "Herbert W. Armstrong, United States."

Perhaps the most unusual address was "Herbert W. Armstrong, 800-423-4444."

Occasionally MPC receives one of the literature advertising cards with no address at all—just a picture of *The Plain Truth* or one of the booklets.

Some letters arrive without stamps. MPC received one with a quarter taped where the stamp should have been. Another used an S & H Green Stamp (a trading stamp used by some American grocery stores.) The U.S. Postal Service will normally not deliver these.

Mail does not always arrive in the best condition. MPC received a letter that was almost 60 percent destroyed by fire. It survived an airplane crash to make it to Pasadena. Others have come water-damaged after going through a flood.

Employees were surprised one day to see an envelope arrive with an old 4 cent stamp on it (25 cent stamps are now required to mail letters in the United States).

It was a return envelope that was sent with a semiannual mailing 16 years earlier. It turned out that the envelope was mailed at that time,

but had taken 16 years to reach MPC.

The Post Office explained that the envelope fell behind a cabinet that eventually was moved to paint the wall behind it. When the envelope was found, it was forwarded to the Church.

A one dollar bill arrived with the Church's address and a stamp affixed to it. It was not enclosed in an envelope. (We don't recommend sending your tithes and offerings this way!)

People write on material other

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PERSONAL

(Continued from page 1)

given to others is certainly not wrong, but using service as an excuse to hide from personal family responsibilities is a case of misplaced priorities.

A heart that cares

You see, God is not interested in deeds for the sake of deeds. He is interested in a heart that cares. God is creating his nature in his children. His nature is love.

As we grow in his nature, we begin to think more like he thinks. We begin to be motivated to do what we do out of compassion, kindness, gentleness and concern, coupled with humility.

With this nature, we could not bear to neglect our own families. With this nature, we will also be moved to help others in need, as we are able, even if only in a small way.

No one Christian can solve the

than paper. Letters have been received on napkins (serviettes) and even on toilet paper.

Part of a booklet was returned to MPC with a note that said: "This is silly, but my dog has developed a taste for your literature. He ate part of this one. Please send another copy."

MPC received a Bible with every word from Genesis to Revelation underlined with colored pencils.

A variety of other strange things have come in the mail: wigs, false

problems of mankind, or is capable of helping everyone in need. But all Christians should have the nature that yearns to reach out to help fellowman.

On the world scene

Another Communist domino has fallen in Eastern Europe with the overthrow and execution of hard-line Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu. Bloody fighting raged between Ceausescu's former security forces, fighting for their lives, and the army, which overthrew the tyrant.

Nicolae Ceausescu's iron fist prevented the existence of any opposition political parties, so first reports indicated that no one other than the Communist Party would be prepared to rule

Faculty Position Available Fall Semester 1990

The following position is available for the fall 1990 semester at Ambassador College.

Spanish: Full-time faculty position to teach undergraduate courses in Spanish. A master's degree in Spanish is required.

To apply for this position, send a letter of application, official transcripts and curriculum vitae to President's Office, Ambassador College, Pasadena, Calif., 91129.

teeth, individual teeth, hair clip-pings, birth certificates, marriage certificates, drivers licenses, neck ties (with a note saying these are my tithes), underwear, women's garters, chewing gum (some chewed, some not), frozen food (not

frozen when it arrived) and an air force uniform.

Although many of these letters were a little unusual, each was handled carefully so as not to offend. MPC considered each writer a sincere person.

the world's oppressed, there is a cause for rejoicing. God has given us a grand preview of the true and glorious liberty he has yet to bestow on an earth that has never known what true freedom is all about. In this we are his ambassadors, equipped with his Spirit and growing in his nature.

Let's remain ever faithful and vigilant to that calling. Let's not allow the cares of this present evil world to distract us from the true values of life revealed by Jesus Christ.

We are his servants, called to walk in his steps. As devoted ambassadors, then, let's carry on in faith and boldness to hold his banner high not only in word, but also in thought and deed.

before. The speaker said that Jesus is God. Is that true? I'm sure the booklet will explain it. This is a new concept for me.

San Jose, Calif.

I always thought Jesus was born before December and the Christmas tradition was just something passed down by the Romans. I don't think people should pass those lies on to their kids. You have a merry Christmas. Can you believe I said that? What a habit. Have a nice day.

Fort Worth, Tex.

I thought this program was wonderful. I watch it every week. I wish more people could have seen the program today. Too many of us have wrongly celebrated Christmas in the past.

Farmville, Va.

☆ ☆ ☆

Telecast on addiction

I think this was a very timely and informative program. Alcoholism is a big problem and you really addressed the issue. I'm sure you had lots of calls requesting this literature today because nearly every family has one person suffering from this.

Westminster, S.C.

I just got caught with a bottle of cognac in front of me, and I think I should have this booklet. I am a bartender.

East Meadow, N.Y.

Report from

the Treasurer's Office

Leroy Neff

PASADENA—The good increase for November, which resulted mainly from comparing with a low 1988 figure, did not hold for December. The month's increases were good until about the last day. The last day in 1988 had been excellent. This year it was not nearly as good. The result was that the income percentage for the whole year dropped almost one whole percent in just this one day. The final result was a 3.4 percent increase in 1989 over 1988.

We expect the first quarter of the new year to show good increases because of the very low first quarter last year.

Because of changes in Ambassador College for 1990 and other factors, the revised new budget is not quite ready at the time of this writing. We hope that it can be completed and approved in the next few days. The preliminary figures indicate that considerable expenses will have to be cut.

Up-to-date articles

I am for *The Plain Truth* in general because I like the way your articles are

F.E.
Norway

☆ ☆ ☆

The Worldwide News

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Europe

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to its full potential," Mr. Thiriat wrote, "an economic conflict with American capitalism will occur externally while political difficulties will occur internally."

"It is at this point that the present European politicians will find themselves too weak to cope with the resistance encountered, and men of a different calibre will be required.

"The technocrats who created the European Economic Community will want to see their work carried through, so it is highly likely that . . . they will turn to other more determined politicians with more audacious policies to complete their masterpiece."

Revelation 17:12-13 describes a time when "ten kings . . . receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast . . . and they will give their power and authority to the beast" (New King James).

In this light it is worth looking at the growing role played by members of deposed royal houses in Europe.

Former King Michael of Romania, 68, who was forced off the throne in 1948, is ready to return as head of a constitutional monarchy "if people want me to come back."

In Czechoslovakia, Prince Karl von Schwarzenberg, heir to a noble family, returned to his native land. "I'm here because I am a monarchist," he said. "Now is the time for the return of old things."

The Dec. 8 *Wall Street Journal* observed that "at a time when communist idols are collapsing, the citizens of every East European country are on the hunt for replacement heroes. . . . If Moscow's influence in Hungary and Czechoslovakia continues to recede, members of the erstwhile ruling families will have a special place in the rebuilding of Central Europe."

Thank you very much indeed for your last letter. It gave me and still does give me the strength to endure my trials in this difficult period. You have given me a lot of new, unexpected and unfamiliar thoughts to think about.

It is God's will for us to experience difficulties. He intends it that way so that we can learn to develop God's loving character. The Christian life is a struggle, a race to develop God's character! Paul and Jesus suffered and learned obedience and endurance from and by means of the sufferings and trials they went through.

I'll need time to digest all the new thoughts you are giving me and will be coming back to you with my comments—if you have time to carry on answering my questions, even though you are very busy.

F.E.
Norway

☆ ☆ ☆

Up-to-date articles

I am for *The Plain Truth* in general because I like the way your articles are



IRON SHARPENS IRON

There are many ways to explain ‘Why don’t you people vote?’

By Michael Morrison

As God’s people we have come out of this world. We do not vote or participate in this world’s government. We live in this world, but we are not part of it.

People are often surprised that members of God’s Church do not vote. They may ask why, and we should be prepared to give an answer.

Michael Morrison is an associate editor of The Good News.

We need to explain sufficiently without giving unnecessary offense. An answer that is sufficient for one person may not be for another, so it is helpful to know several ways to explain why we don’t get involved in the politics of this world.

Let’s examine the strengths and weaknesses of the responses below.

• “One vote doesn’t matter much.” People interested in politics won’t accept this reason because it is often used as an excuse for political apathy.

They may mention elections that were decided by one vote. They may say that non-voting is a failure of civic duty—thus shifting the discussion into an area they are familiar with, and away from the foundation of our political noninvolvement.

• “I don’t get involved in politics. I choose not to vote.” These comments stress personal choice, which may be a good enough reason for some.

Others, however, may try to change your opinion. Some may argue that it is your Christian duty to support candidates who stress certain moral issues.

But even if one candidate is clearly closer to biblical morals than the other candidates, it is not our duty to vote.

We are not authorized to determine who should govern. Only God has that right.

• “Human beings are unable to determine who is the best ruler.” God’s perspective allows him to know what is best. God sometimes intervenes and chooses leaders of human governments when it is necessary to fulfill his will. He sometimes appoints leaders for purposes we could not have foreseen.

God may surprise us with the leaders he chooses, and we do not want to vote against God’s appointed.

We are to submit to the civil authorities (Romans 13:1-7, Titus 3:1, 1 Peter 2:13-14)—not try to remove them from power by voting. It is God’s responsibility to remove them when the time is right.

• “It doesn’t matter who wins.” For most elections, this is not true. Some elected officials have power to make it easier or more difficult for the Church to proclaim the gospel. Laws and policies affect the economy and members’ tithes.

The fact that God sometimes intervenes to choose national leaders (Daniel 2:21) implies that it does matter who is in power. We should pray that God choose the leaders that make it easier for the gospel to be preached and for us to worship him freely.

• “It doesn’t matter who I vote

for because God sometimes intervenes and determines who will win.” This answer hints at a religious reason for not voting. This may be a sufficient answer for some. It does not criticize anyone, because it merely says voting is ineffective.

God rules in the affairs of men (Daniel 4:17). “There is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God” (Romans 13:1, New King James throughout).

Jesus told Pilate, “You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above” (John 19:11).

• “None of the candidates has promised to govern by biblical laws.” I’ve never heard of a candidate in favor of the Sabbath and the Holy Days. Nor would I expect to, for Jesus told us that those who followed his way would be a persecuted minority (John 15:20).

“Woe to you when all men speak

well of you [and vote for you], for so did their fathers to the false prophets” (Luke 6:26).

It is not yet time for God, or his people, to install righteous rulers. The fundamental error of religious political activists is that they don’t

Our citizenship is in God’s government. Our role in this world is like that of an ambassador, a representative of God’s way. An ambassador does not vote or try to change the laws of the land in which he is sent to live.

realize that this is not God’s world.

We have no duty to transform the world. Jesus did not reform Caesar or set up a kingdom of righteousness. We should cry and sigh about abominations (Ezekiel 9:4), we

should proclaim right morality in a non-political way (Isaiah 58:1), but we don’t try to dictate morality through human legislation.

• “We do not want to be involved in politics because our loyalty is with God’s government.” Though we live in the world, Jesus tells us we are not to be of the world (John 17:14-16). We are not to be involved in the political struggles of this world.

Our citizenship is in God’s government (Ephesians 2:19, Philippians 3:20). Our role in this world is like that of an ambassador, a repre-

sentative of his own systems of government. But Christ’s kingdom is not of this world (John 18:36). If it were, we would participate. When Christ’s kingdom does come, we will participate by ruling and judging (Daniel 7:27, I Corinthians 6:2, Revelation 2:26).

We have been appointed to be leaders in the world tomorrow. But for now, we are to be separate (II Corinthians 6:17).

• “I believe that voting shows a lack of faith in God.” This answer, in its clarity, may offend some, but when all else fails we may have to state our convictions bluntly.

God has not authorized us to choose government leaders—whether by publicly proclaiming who we feel should be in charge or by anonymous voting. Voting reflects an unwillingness to believe that God will guide world events in the best way.

We are espoused to Christ; we put our hopes for a better world in him. Trying to improve the world through voting is a diversion of our allegiance.

Those involved in politics have less time for the Work of the Church. Proclaiming the gospel does far more good than being involved in the politics of this world.

Co-workers need a clear job description

By Robert Millman and Douglas Smith

To be effective in God’s Work we must have a clear description of what our duties are. An employee

ity. In a society troubled by divorce, juvenile delinquency, mental instability and every other kind of social evil, you can stand as a pillar of stability and happiness through the

contribution to God’s Work. James 5:16 tells us, “The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man availas much” (New King James throughout).

Our prayers go up before God’s throne like a cloud of sweet incense (Revelation 8:3-4). They should be “beaten fine” just as incense had to be (Leviticus 16:12). That means we should care enough to go into detail, knowing enough about God’s Work to pray specifically for its many facets.

Effective prayers are detailed, explicit, specific and heartfelt. Reading the Work’s publications can give us a more complete picture of what is going on and where the needs are.

Do you know what Jesus Christ expects you to contribute as an employee in his Father’s business? If you don’t, you may be unaware of the meaningful responsibility for you in the Work of God.

who does not know what or how to contribute to his job will be frustrated.

power of his Holy Spirit.

Pray for the Work

Your prayers are an important

Robert Millman pastors the Red Deer and Wetaskiwin, Alta., churches, and Douglas Smith pastors the Kitchener, Ont., church.

Do you know what Jesus Christ expects you to contribute as an employee in his “Father’s business” (Luke 2:49)? If you don’t, you may be unaware of the meaningful responsibility for you in the Work of God.

You are a co-worker in the commission Jesus gave his Church, the commission we call “the Work.” Here are four basic job requirements Jesus Christ has for every one of us as co-workers in his Work.

Be an ambassador for Christ

The apostle Paul told the church at Corinth that we are “ambassadors for Christ” (II Corinthians 5:20).

As representatives of God’s way of life, we have an important responsibility to set the right example of Christian conduct. Our model is Jesus Christ and our lives should reflect him when we speak and in our habits, character, attitude and dress.

God can use our example to challenge others and stimulate curios-

By Bernard W. Schnippert

“Sit down and shut up!”, “This stinks!”, “You’re crazy!”, “You’re in my way!”, “You’re on my turf!” How many times have these kinds of blunt, rude statements come into our minds and tumbled out of our lips?

Bernard W. Schnippert is director of Media Operations in Pasadena.

Maybe we are not quite that bold and blunt, but sometimes we can be pretty bold, pretty blunt and pretty rude. Why? Why aren’t people more tactful?

Here are a few keys for being tactful.

The first point is to care. People who don’t care, easily and invariably offend.

Some equate rudeness with honesty. Honesty is a virtue. Being forthright is a virtue. But being blunt, rude, critical, sarcastic and negative are not virtues. They are

vices. Proverbs 29:11 says, “A fool utters all his mind: but a wise man keepeth it in till afterwards.”

But if you care, your caring will be discerned. Many people are not articulate, but they care. And when they communicate, their care is evident. They have hearts of gold.

If you care whether you hurt someone, the chances of you doing it are less likely.

The second point is to choose soft words. Tact is in the words.

“You’re crazy!” is likely to incite an argument and cause aggravation. Certain words carry sarcasm. Certain words carry anger. Other words are more gracious and kind.

When you say something, choose those words less likely to offend.

The third point: Don’t impute motives. It is far easier to know what someone did than why they did it. When we deal in motives, we easily cause offense.

The fourth point: Avoid hyperbole, overstatement and understatement.

Overstatement incites anger, be-

cause it misrepresents. Arguments escalate, and they are hard to stop.

Also avoid sarcastic understatement. That is just as irritating. It is not intended to be polite; it’s intended to hurt.

Fifth point: When you’re speaking with someone, deal with the real issue.

Problems begin when we stray from the facts and real issues at hand and instead start imputing motives.

Proverbs 15:28 says, “The heart of the righteous studies to answer: but the mouth of the wicked pours out evil things.”

A tactful approach is a studied approach, and it’s an approach that often takes years to develop.

The tactful and diplomatic person who presents himself or herself without anger, without retribution, without sarcasm, who is above falling into these pitfalls, is a kind and gentle person, much respected, who furthers the job at hand.

How you can prevent offenses

Visiting member recounts turmoil of Hurricane Hugo

By Cheryl Ebeling

BOSTON, Mass.—When Hurricane Hugo hit the Caribbean island of Montserrat Sept. 17, Rosetta Williams, a member who attends the Boston church, was there visiting her mother.

Cheryl Ebeling, a member who attends the Boston, Mass., church, is a former employee of Editorial Services.

Mrs. Williams usually visits her mother each year after the Feast of Tabernacles. However, this year Mrs. Williams visited her mother before the Feast, taking with her rice, legumes and canned meats.

After arriving on the island she urged her mother to send out her natural gas tanks to be filled even though neither tank was empty. It meant they were without gas for one day.

Two days before Mrs. Williams was scheduled to leave the island, the hurricane warnings began.

The governor told the electric company to turn off the electricity on the island to avoid electrocutions and fires. He also outlined other precautions to be taken before the hurricane hit.

Following the instructions, Mrs. Williams and her mother taped glass doors and windows, filled containers with water, wrapped clothing in plastic bags and stored breakable items.

Then they waited and prayed. About an hour before the storm struck they joined their neighbors in the basement.

It was about 2 a.m. when the worst of the wind and rain tore through the house. Winds crashed through a set of glass doors, creating a vacuum that blew out the other side of the house, taking the doors with it. The vacuum slammed the basement door shut, protecting those below from the wind's violence.

In the morning, after opening the basement door, the group found

themselves staring out at the sky. The second floor of the house was gone. The roof and doors were on the hillside, the draperies adorned the trees and household items lay everywhere.

However, the house had the least damage in the area. Most other homes were leveled. Every breakable item Mrs. Williams and her mother had set aside remained intact.

A pipe outside the house continued to provide clean running water, although the island's main water supply was cut off to avoid contamination.

Mrs. Williams' mother continually told her, "I know God sent you." She would not otherwise have had any family members with her, nor would she have had sufficient supplies or natural gas to take care of herself and the neighbors during and after the crisis.

Roads were impassable for two days and incoming telephone com-

munication was cut off. Mrs. Williams was unable to leave the island until four days after the storm.

Although no flights were scheduled, Mrs. Williams went to the airport and waited until she could get on a plane.

At the airport people thrust letters and telephone numbers at her,

grasping at one of their few chances to let relatives know how they were and what help they needed.

When she arrived home, Mrs. Williams mailed the letters and spent most of two days telephoning around the country, giving firsthand information about conditions on the island.

Don't think God doesn't notice.

Have an attitude of service

Throughout history, people from all walks of life, including kings, prophets, soldiers, priests, widows and prisoners have been given the opportunity to contribute toward God's purpose.

Those who are willing always find an opportunity to serve.

We help the Work when we visit the sick, write a note of encouragement, lend a sympathetic ear (James 1:27, Hebrews 10:24). Any contribution that strengthens the brethren—the Body of Christ—is a contribution to the Work.

As times become tougher, helping each other will become even more important than it is now.

This job description will help you to contribute your best efforts and ensure that the Body of Christ continues to grow, and that the Work of God is done effectively.

Co-worker

(Continued from page 4)

tribe of Levi for their service to him (Numbers 18:21).

Before the destruction of the Temple in A.D. 70, and the collapse of the Levitical priesthood, Paul told the Church that Abraham paid tithes to Jesus Christ long before the Levitical system was instituted (Hebrews 7:1-10, Genesis 14:18-20).

God's tithe now goes to the Body of Christ (his Church, Ephesians 1:22-23) that does his Work today.

Consider the widow in Luke 21:1-4 who gave two mites (about half a cent). God can put our small offerings together and make them accomplish a big job—sending the witness to all the world by way of broadcast media and the printed page.

Children's Corner

Good-bye and hello

By Vivian Pettijohn

"Why did Uncle Andy and Aunt Beth and Chris and Debbie have to move away?" asked 7-year-old Mike Harris angrily. "It won't be any fun around here without them."

"That's right!" agreed Gina, 4½, looking sad. She pressed her nose tightly against the living room window, watching men next door unlock the back of a big moving van to unload furniture for the new family who would live in the Ellisons' house.

"Now, children," Mother scolded softly. "I know how you feel. I'm going to miss my sister and her family, too. But Uncle Andy's company transferred him to Palmdale, so they had to move. But they'll be back for visits."

Mother smiled and said, "Let's try to think of a way we might get over our sad feelings."

Mike and Gina frowned as they thought. In a couple of minutes Mike blurted, "I have an idea." He told his mother.

"Good!" Mother said. "Let's go talk to your father about it."

On this Sunday afternoon Ian Harris had just finished vacuuming the inside of their car when his family joined him outside the garage. Mike explained his idea—to give the new neighbors a warm welcome.

Dad agreed enthusiastically. "Let's telephone the Winfields and see if they want to help with Operation Welcome!"

Just then a station wagon pulled up in front of the Ellisons' house, and a family of five piled out, along with a cocker spaniel on a leash. When Mr. Harris waved at them, the family waved back, then hurried into the house.

When Mr. Harris told Leon Winfield on the telephone about his son's idea, they were eager to help.

Soon the Winfields and Harrises were busy—the women cooking and baking, the children making cards and the men sacking supplies.

At the agreed-upon time of 5:30 p.m., all was ready. The five Winfields and four Harrises marched out of their houses toward the old Ellison home, each person carrying something. And some of the somethings had very good smells.

Mr. Harris rang the doorbell. A man in his late 20s with red hair, holding a crying 6-month-old boy, opened the door. He stood there, staring at nine strangers holding gifts. Finally he stammered: "Y-y-you must have the wrong house. I'm Dennis Freeman."

"No, Dennis," Mr. Harris answered, laughing, "we don't have the wrong house. We live next door, and

they," he gestured toward the Winfields, "live across the street. We brought this food, cards and this plant just to welcome you to the neighborhood."

Dennis' wife, Pearl, who had joined them, introduced herself and their other two children, 4-year-old Aaron and 2-year-old Bonnie. The baby, Charles, was now smiling and playing peek-a-boo with Gina. The cocker spaniel was sniffing curiously at everyone.

"Pearl," Frances Harris said, after all the introductions were over, "if it's OK, we'll set out the food on your kitchen counter. We also brought paper plates and other things you'll need,

so your supper is ready to eat as soon as you can stop for a few minutes. OK?"

The tired woman smiled gratefully and nodded her head as she received the pretty welcome cards and the red geranium from the children. Then she led the other parents past unpacked boxes and hastily arranged furniture to the kitchen. The children began getting acquainted in the living room.

After all three families had visited for a while, Mike said, "You know, saying good-bye to old friends and family is no fun, but..."

"But," Gina said, interrupting Mike and smiling as she held the baby, "saying hello to our new friends is."

And everyone agreed.



Artwork to color by Ken Tunell

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHS

AGNONE, Giancarlo and Eliana (Zaccagnino), of Milltown, N.J., girl, Michelle Rachel, June 18, 7:21 p.m., 7 pounds 5½ ounces, now 1 boy, 1 girl.

ALLSWANG, Scott and Pamela (Anderson), of Long Beach, Calif., girl, Erica Leanna, Nov. 9, 11:59 p.m., 7 pounds 15 ounces, now 1 boy, 1 girl.

BLAGG, Joe and Debbie (Wells), of Paducah, Ky., boy, Joseph Kyle, Dec. 9, 4:30 p.m., 10 pounds 6 ounces, now 1 boy, 1 girl.

BROWN, Barry and Carolyn (Grove), of Macomb, Ill., girl, Kristen Elizabeth, Dec. 4, 11:35 p.m., 8 pounds 12 ounces, now 1 boy, 2 girls.

CAROTHERS, Chris and Margie (Shimek) of Baltimore, Md., boy, Jacob Michael, Nov. 10, 7:42 p.m., 9 pounds 6 ounces, now 1 boy, 1 girl.

CLARK, John and Rose (Horychata), of Houston, Tex., girl, Kelsey Marie, Nov. 18, 6:15 p.m., 8 pounds 11 ounces, now 2 girls.

CLAYTON, Gary and Jeanne (Baben), of Ann Arbor, Mich., boy, Luke Allan, Sept. 4, 10:32 a.m., 9 pounds 14 ounces, now 4 boys.

CORBIN, John and Holly (Jeffries), of Lafayette, Ind., girl, Joani Kathleen, Nov. 6, 7:49 a.m., 8 pounds 9 ounces, now 2 girls.

CUTTER, Michael and Cheryl (Meyer), of Dayton, Ohio, boy, Tyler James, Nov. 21, 11:01 a.m., 8 pounds 10 ounces, now 1 boy, 1 girl.

DEL CAMBRE, Robbie and Carla (Brasseux), of Lafayette, La., girl, Rachael Lynn, May 18, 1:02 a.m., 9 pounds 9 ounces, now 3 girls.

DIXON, Mark and Colleen (Gus), of Pasadena, boy, William Thomas, Dec. 12, 7:45 p.m., 6 pounds 2 ounces, first child.

FARRELL, Brian and Sherry (Maxedon), of Nashville, Tenn., boy, Sean Robert, Nov. 28, 9 pounds 7½ ounces, now 5 boys, 3 girls.

FINNEY, Thomas and Priscilla (Vasquez), of Davenport, Iowa, girl, Ariel Alexandra, Dec. 1, 7:12 a.m., 6 pounds 7½ ounces, now 1 boy, 1 girl.

FITZMAURICE, Clint and Grace (Lansing), of Edmonton, Alta., boy, Lance Mitchell, Oct. 24, 8 pounds 13 ounces, now 2 boys, 1 girl.

GALLOWAY, Bill and Sylvie (King), of Brevard, N.C., girl, Megan Claire, Nov. 27, 2:13 a.m., 8 pounds 1 ounce, now 1 boy, 2 girls.

GOERTZ, Greg and Susie (Nickerson), of Lufkin, Tex., boy, Geoffrey Mark, July 8, 8:30 a.m., 6 pounds 9 ounces, first child.

HAWKER, David and Carolyn (Kruger), of Durban, South Africa, boy, Jared David William, Aug. 30, 1:45 p.m., 3.27 kilograms, now 1 boy, 1 girl.

HORTON, Michael and Kathy, of Biloxi, Miss., girl, Tyra Ella, Nov. 22, 3:02 p.m., 7 pounds 7 ounces, now 3 girls.

HOWSE, David and Jennifer (Brown), of Sacramento, Calif., boy, Adam David, July 7, 5:44 p.m., 8 pounds 8 ounces, first child.

HUFFMAN, David and Sharon (Seals), of Metarie, La., girl, Margaret Rose, Sept. 14, 7:53 p.m., 7 pounds 11 ounces, now 1 boy, 1 girl.

HYDE, Dan and Brenda (Smith), of Charlotte, N.C., girl, Brittan Marie, Nov. 23, 2:02 p.m., 6 pounds 10 ounces, now 1 boy, 3 girls.

JAEK, Brian and Karen (Wingie), of Dauphin, Man., boy, Joshua Jonathon, Sept. 23, 7 pounds 2 ounces, first child.

JANKOVIC, Daniel and Christine (Walker), of Canberrie, Australia, girl, Hayley Rose, Nov. 29, 7:20 p.m., 8 pounds 7 ounces, now 3 girls.

JUTSON, Jim and Geri (Rogers), of El Centro, Calif., girl, Sarah Michelle, Oct. 18, 10:05 p.m., 7 pounds 8 ounces, first child.

LEASURE, Kent and Lorena (Ridgely), of Mercersburg, Pa., girl, Fern Laurel, Oct. 3, 10:23 p.m., 7 pounds 7½ ounces, first child.

LESHTOHO, Vincent and Hannah (Nkonyane), of Bloemfontein, South Africa, girl, Tumele Yolanda, Nov. 23, 5:05 p.m., 2.85 kilograms, now 1 boy, 1 girl.

MITCHELL, Bradley and Kathleen (Lewis), of Palmdale, Calif., boy, Ian Bradley, Nov. 22, 5:40 p.m., 10 pounds, now 2 boys, 1 girl.

NEWTON, Peter and Maree (McCaffrey), of Mackay, Australia, boy, Drew Elliot, Aug. 29, 7:30 p.m., 9 pounds 3 ounces, now 2 boys.

ORR, Steve and Jeannette (Boyes), of San Jose, Calif., girl, Jessica Janelle, Sept. 26, 8 pounds 2 ounces, first child.

PETTIT, Michael and Marcella (Halper), of Borden, N.J., girl, Lindsay Morgan, Nov. 28, 10:27 p.m., 7 pounds 9½ ounces, now 2 girls.

PLUMLEE, Ron and Debbie (Solima), of Pasadena, boy, Gregory James, Nov. 19, 1:30 a.m., 7 pounds 8 ounces, first child.

ROGALLA, Karl "Rob" and Peggy (Wood), of Minneapolis, Minn., girl, Aislinn Ann, Oct. 31, 12:51 p.m., 7 pounds, now 2 boys, 1 girl.

ROMAN, Michael and Elizabeth (Kemp), of Queens, N.Y., boy, Matthew Thomas, Nov. 3, 1:37 p.m., 7 pounds 8 ounces, first child.

SAGE, Mark and Holly (James), of San Diego, Calif., girl, Sara Nicole "Nikki," Dec. 4, 5:23 a.m., 8 pounds 6 ounces, now 1 boy, 1 girl.

SCHNEIDER, Vincent and Becky (Doak), of Akron, Ohio, girl, Mindy Marie, Nov. 22, 5:43 a.m., 6 pounds 15 ounces, now 2 boys, 3 girls.

SETHMAN, Robert and Colleen (Eker), of Laurel, Md., girl, Danielle Nicole, Dec. 3, 7 pounds 12 ounces, now 1 boy, 1 girl.

SOULARD, Patricia and Suzie (Deschenes), of Abitibi-Temiscamingue, Que., boy, Charles Patrice, Nov. 20, 1:57 a.m., 7 pounds 6 ounces, now 1 boy, 1 girl.

ULIBARRI, Steve and Stephanie (Hollis), of Covina, Calif., girl, Lauren, Dec. 1, 7 pounds 10 ounces, now 1 boy, 1 girl.

Albuquerque, N.M., boy, Kyle Guillermo, Sept. 7, 2 p.m., 8 pounds 2 ounces, now 3 boys.

WARE, Rocky and Diane (Ames), of Big Sandy, girl, Victoria Lynn, Oct. 23, 8 pounds 4 ounces, now 1 boy, 1 girl.

WOLAYER, Kendel and Kathi (Branch), of Italy, Tex., boy, Jordan Branch, Oct. 16, 4:57 p.m., 7 pounds, first child.

WOOD, Robert and Beth (Marvel), of Baltimore, Md., girl, Brittany Eden Louise, Sept. 21, 1:15 a.m., 8 pounds 10 ounces, now 1 boy, 1 girl.

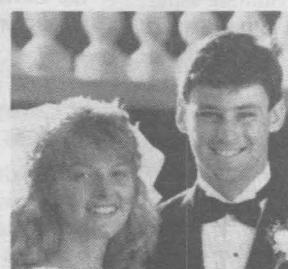
WYATT, Donald Marc and Susan (Sutton), of Las Vegas, Nev., boy, Jonathan Osborne, Sept. 28, 2:34 p.m., 7 pounds 10 ounces, first child.

ZOELLICK, Jeffery and Shelley (Smith), of Wisconsin Dells, Wis., boy, Preston Bryan, Sept. 5, 3:05 a.m., 10 pounds 3½ ounces, first child.



MR. AND MRS. THOMAS HANSON

Thomas Hanson and Tina Blanco, both of Pasadena, were united in marriage Nov. 19 in the Ambassador College Lower Gardens. Marie Viduch, sister of the bride, was matron of honor, and Samuel C. Hanson, father of the groom, was best man. The ceremony was performed by John Kennedy, assistant pastor of the Pasadena Auditorium P.M. church.



MR. AND MRS. JOHN RASMUSSEN

David Strong and Lynne Webb are happy to announce their engagement. A late spring wedding is planned.

Mr. and Mrs. Elton Fawcett of Brisbane, Australia, are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Joanne Linda to Laurence Brett Nichols of Perth, Australia. Both are Pasadena Ambassador College seniors. A May 20 wedding in Pasadena is planned.

Priscilla Schulz of Beecher, Ill., is pleased to announce the engagement of her daughter Cathleen Jo, a 1988 Big Sandy Ambassador College graduate, to David John Anderson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Eric L. Anderson of Evergreen Park, Ill. A May 6 wedding is planned.

Mr. and Mrs. Jake Friesen of Saskatoon, Sask., are happy to announce the engagement of their daughter Helene Elizabeth to Stephen Peter Nordstrom, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Nordstrom of Edmonton, Alta. A June 9 wedding is planned.

Shirley Miers is happy to announce the engagement of her daughter Marsha Moser, who attends the Bethlehem, Pa., A.M. church, to Kevin Crump, who attends the Bethlehem P.M. church. An April 1 wedding is planned.

Mr. and Mrs. Jake Friesen of Saskatoon, Sask., are happy to announce the engagement of their daughter Helene Elizabeth to Stephen Peter Nordstrom, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Nordstrom of Edmonton, Alta. A June 9 wedding is planned.

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Spanish girl, 6, hears first sounds

Time of trial, time of rejoicing

By Thomas and Tina Hanson

SEGOVIA, Spain—"Momma! Momma!" cried Carmen Sanchez, then 6, as a hearing aid allowed her to hear her first sounds in four years.

With tears in her eyes Carmen excitedly looked around the doctor's office in the directions that sounds came from. She paged through a book to hear the pages rustle.

At 2½, Carmen suffered an epileptic seizure, lost her hearing and stopped talking. Though Mrs. Sanchez suspected that their daughter was deaf, it was a few years before this was confirmed.

Her personality completely changed, said Mrs. Sanchez. Frustrated at not hearing and being unable to communicate, Carmen had constant fits and tantrums.

"She was always angry, never happy," Mrs. Sanchez said. "She hit doors, screamed and pulled her hair. She was very aggressive."

"She was isolated," Mr. Sanchez said. "She couldn't communicate verbally, so she communicated aggressively."

She stopped responding to her parents.

A neurologist gave her medication, but it did not solve the problem.

Carmen was anointed by Fernando Barriga, pastor of the Pasadena Spanish church, at the Feast in Spain in 1986. Her tantrums stopped, and her charac-

ter changed little by little.

Unknown to her parents, Carmen began to read lips. She began to speak to them in monosyllables.

In October 1988 Carmen had an ear infection, and her parents took her to a specialist who confirmed her hearing loss.

"Cover your lips and talk to her," the specialist said. When they did, Carmen could not understand.

"Carmen has changed so much," Mrs. Sanchez said. "She was always upset, but now she is a very caring person."

Sanchez family

Carmen's parents, Antonio Miguel Sanchez Nunez and Maria de los Angeles Navarro Herrero, are members who attend the Madrid, Spain, church. (In Spain a wife does not take the surname of her husband, however, she prefers to be called Mrs. Sanchez.)

They were married in 1976. Mr. Sanchez is a government tax inspector, and Mrs. Sanchez works in hospital administration.

The Sanchezes have four children: Diego, 9, Carmen, 7, Marta, 6, and Raquel, 5.

Coming into the Church

Mr. Sanchez started receiving *La Pura Verdad* (Spanish Plain Truth) in 1982 after seeing a newspaper advertisement. He read the magazine for about four years before asking for a visit.

Mrs. Sanchez was busy with their

children while her husband was studying Church literature. Mr. Sanchez thought what he was learning might be wrong, and because he didn't want to confuse his wife, he did not share it with her.

Mr. Barriga visited Mr. Sanchez in May 1986 on one of the twice-yearly visits he conducted at that time.

When Mr. Sanchez began to keep the Sabbath, Mrs. Sanchez responded sarcastically: "I want to keep the Sabbath too. It would be nice not to do anything on Saturdays." On Sundays she took the children to church.

This was a time of trial for the Sanchez family. They had four small children and economic problems. Carmen's problem had just become apparent.

In 1985 they went to Mr. Sanchez' sister's wedding and were given a trip to Israel by someone unable to use the airplane tickets.

In Israel the couple spent time alone and talked, which they hadn't done for a long time. Mr. Sanchez told her how wrong they had been in their past beliefs about the Sabbath and the Holy Spirit.

After the trip Mrs. Sanchez started reading *La Pura Verdad*, but she was frustrated because she could not understand.

Mrs. Sanchez did not accompany her husband when Mr. Barriga visited in 1986, but afterward she noticed positive changes in her husband and attended the Feast with



SPANISH MEMBERS—Antonio and Maria Sanchez celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles in Segovia, Spain, with their children (from left): Diego, Carmen, Marta and Raquel. [Photo by Thomas C. Hanson]

him in Cullera, Spain.

He was baptized that year in the Mediterranean, and she was baptized the following year.

(His sister, Maria Cruz Sanchez, and another sister, Gema Sanchez, and her husband, Isidro Antonio Rodriguez Marcos, attended their first Feast last year.)

Service in the Church

Mr. and Mrs. Sanchez are one of only two couples in the Madrid church. On the Night to Be Much Observed half of the congregation (22 people) go to their house, and the other half go to the home of pastor Pedro Rufian and his wife, Brigida.

Mr. Sanchez helped Mr. Rufian find a hotel and meeting hall for the Feast in Segovia. He organized Feast schedules on his personal computer and handled finances.

Mrs. Sanchez was in charge of the Festival menu at the hotel, coordinated special music and the hymns and is the pianist for song services in the Madrid church.

Mrs. Sanchez spoke of the profound affection among members in the Madrid congregation because it is so small. The feeling of family is strong.

"When a member visits Madrid, we won't allow him or her to stay in a hotel—even if it means 22 people in the house," Mrs. Sanchez said.

PAGES FROM THE FAMILY ALBUM

"And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit everlasting life." (Matthew 19:29, New King James)

Spain and Portugal

By Thomas C. Hanson

SEGOVIA, Spain—Members in Spain and Portugal "are warm, open, very communicative and willing to show hospitality," said pastor Pedro Rufian.

The church in Spain and Portugal is young. Weekly Sabbath services started in Madrid less than one year ago—July 8, 1989. Mr. Rufian, the first resident minister in Spain, and his wife, Brigida, arrived in Spain Aug. 4, 1988, after serving for one year in Chile. Both are native Spaniards.

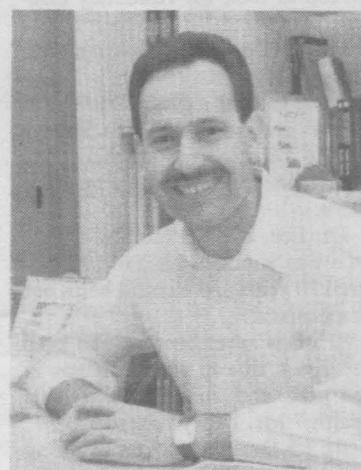
Mr. and Mrs. Rufian serve brethren in Spain, Portugal and Gibraltar on the Iberian Peninsula; the Canary Islands, Azores and Madeira in the Atlantic; the Balearic Islands in the Mediterranean; and Spanish-speaking brethren from Latin America in Israel.

Only the Madrid church meets weekly with a minister present.

Mr. Rufian visits members in Portugal three or four times a year.

On other Sabbaths they listen to sermon tapes. Fourteen gather in the home of Carlos Tavares in Lisbon, the capital.

Mr. Tavares was born in Porto, Portugal, and lived in Portugal until he was 3. His family moved to



PEDRO RUFIAN

Mozambique and then to South Africa.

Mr. Tavares returned half a century later to his native Portugal with his wife, Yvonne, and their daughter, Ruth. He is managing director of a food wholesaler that sells to supermarkets.

Brethren in Lisbon are an inter-

national group. Seven understand English better than Portuguese. Tapes of sermons are played in English and translated into Portuguese. About once a month they receive sermon tapes from the Madrid church.

Mr. Rufian conducts a Bible study in Porto for seven people when he visits.

Income of members in Portugal is low, and some required financial assistance to attend the Feast.

Evangelist Leon Walker, regional director for the Church in Spanish and Portuguese areas, visits Spain twice a year.

Varied places, varied jobs

Members in the Spanish and Portuguese areas have a variety of jobs—Antonio Sanchez is a government tax inspector (see article this page), some are farmers, Jaime Matamalas is a tour guide in Majorca and Maurice De Laet works in the Belgian Embassy in the Canary Islands.

Two members in the Canary Islands, Alfredo Jaber and German Nistal, sell toy clowns to tourists.

Many members are the only ones in their families who have come into the Church. They face difficulties



A SMALL FLOCK—Members from Spain, Portugal, Israel and islands of the Atlantic and Mediterranean gather for the 1989 Feast of Tabernacles in Segovia, Spain. [Photo by Thomas C. Hanson]

when they cannot participate in activities such as christenings and Easter celebrations.

"They are handling these situations wisely and reversing difficult situations," Mr. Rufian said.

Church history

The first member baptized in Spain was Generosa Lopez Rios, who died in 1988. She requested a visit in the early 1960s from Benjamin Rea, now deceased, then director of the Church in Spanish-speaking areas. Fernando Barriga, now pastor of the Pasadena Spanish church, first visited Spain in 1974.

The oldest members in Spain are Fernando Morrell Torrens, 83, and his wife, Joaquina Perello Carrio, 81.

The longest-time member is Jeff Minter, an Australian living in Portugal, who was baptized in 1967.

A growing church

The church in Spain and Portugal is growing everywhere, accord-

ing to Mr. Rufian.

The Feast was first conducted in Cullera in 1980 with 48 present. In 1989 157 kept the Feast in Segovia, 26 of them for the first time.

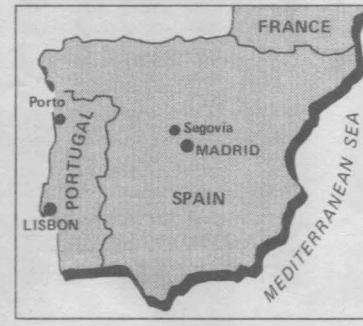
Most people come into the Church through *La Pura Verdad*.

Pura Verdad circulation, built primarily through *Reader's Digest* advertisements, is 16,000. A campaign to put 700,000 subscription cards—one in each household in Madrid—took place Oct. 29 and Nov. 5 and 12. The ads were placed in *El País*, a major newspaper.

The World Tomorrow can be received in English on Super Channel, but few have satellite dishes. By 1992 Mr. Rufian expects Spain to have five private television channels. There's a chance to have *The World Tomorrow* on one of these stations.

Spain and Portugal

Ministers	1
Local church elders	0
Deacons	0
Deaconesses	0
Baptized members	52



WE ARE ONE FAMILY

NEWS OF PEOPLE, PLACES & EVENTS IN THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

UPDATE

BOREHAMWOOD, England—Two *World Tomorrow* presentations for *Plain Truth* readers took place at the Grand Hotel in Birmingham, England, Dec. 3 and 10.

At the first presentation an audience of 360 included 60 Church members from the Birmingham church. The others represented a 6.1 percent response to the 4,900 invitations that were mailed.

Andrew Silcox, pastor of the Birmingham and Gloucester, England, and Llanelli, Wales, churches, introduced the presentation and two telecasts, "Where Is God in the 20th Century?" and "Inside the New Europe."

Mr. Silcox spoke at the second presentation and showed the "Red Horseman of the Apocalypse" telecast to an audience of 260.

After watching the telecasts the group stayed for coffee or tea and cookies and browsed through a display of Church literature.

Forty-one people attended the first of three follow-up Bible studies Jan. 3. Five people have requested visits, and three new people are attending Sabbath services.

visit a state collective farm and spend two evenings at the theater.

Ministers and Ambassador College faculty will accompany the group, along with an official guide from the Soviet travel agency, Intourist.

Church youths who are seriously interested in this tour and who have the funds should contact their church pastors.

★ ★ ★

PASADENA—Sheilah Turner received a bachelor of arts degree, and Guillermo Juy received an associate of arts degree during winter graduation ceremonies Jan. 2.

"Graduation is actually a com-



FOUR-YEAR GRADUATE—Jerome Wendt (right) receives the first bachelor of arts degree since the Big Sandy campus of Ambassador College reopened in 1981. Richard Thompson (left), acting provost, conferred the degree Jan. 2. [Photo by Nathan Faulkner]

PASADENA—Church Administration announced the following ordinations.

Mark Cardona, pastor of the Memphis and Jackson, Tenn., churches, was raised in rank to pastor Sept. 2. **Gordon Green**, pastor of the Bloemfontein, South Africa, church, was raised in rank to preaching elder Oct. 16.

★ ★ ★

BIG SANDY—The Ambassador Foundation and Ambassador College sponsored a concert by the Romeros, a classical guitar quartet, in Tyler, Tex., Dec. 5.

The Romeros appeared at the Wise Auditorium on the campus of Tyler Junior College.

The Romeros, who regularly appear at the Ambassador Auditorium, drew two standing ovations from the crowd of 700, which included evangelist Donald Ward, Ambassador College president, faculty members, students and members of the Tyler community.

The performance was originally scheduled to be in the Big Sandy field house, but maintenance schedules caused the change to Tyler.

Thomas Delamater, director of Development & College Relations for the Big Sandy campus, helped coordinate the concert with foundation employees David Witt and Peter Eddington from Pasadena.

According to evangelist David Hulme, vice president of the Ambassador Foundation, the concert was the first of two planned performances for the Big Sandy area. The second will take place April 3 and will feature the Ballet Folclorico Nacional de Mexico.

"We plan to present this performance on the Big Sandy campus, which will provide an opportunity for local residents to visit the campus and sample what the Church and college represent," Mr. Hulme said.

★ ★ ★

PASADENA—Youth Opportunities United (YOU) will offer a 12-day tour of the Soviet Union June 24 to July 5, if there is sufficient interest.

The tour group will visit Kiev, Leningrad and Moscow in the Soviet Union and Helsinki, Finland. All accommodations will be in first-class hotels near city centers. The cost will be \$2,395 plus air fare to New York.

The group will meet with Soviet youths at a young pioneers camp,

mencement, a time to take what you've learned at Ambassador College into the world," President Donald Ward told the audience in a Hall of Administration conference room.

★ ★ ★

PASADENA—The Festival Office announced that arrangements to again conduct the Feast of Tabernacles in Amman, Jordan, are being looked into.

If all goes as expected, Amman will be offered as a Festival site along with the other sites to be offered in the Feb. 5 *Worldwide News*. Members should wait until that time to submit applications.

★ ★ ★

BIG SANDY—Since the first Sabbath after the Feast of Tabernacles, the 1,500 people who attend the Big Sandy church have met for Sabbath services in the convention center, according to pastor Kenneth Giese.

Their regular facility, the Ambassador College Field House Auditorium, is unavailable because it is undergoing refurbishment and asbestos removal.

On three occasions temperatures dropped so low that services could not be conducted in the convention center, which has no heating, Mr. Giese said.

On one Sabbath, services were canceled; on another Sabbath two services were conducted in the college dining hall; and on another Sabbath one service took place with part of the group in the dining hall and the rest in the part of the field house that could be used.

★ ★ ★

PASADENA—Ambassador College graduates of 1959, 1969 and 1979, and juniors of 1978, were reunited on the Pasadena campus, Dec. 23 and 24.

The class reunion began with the arrival and registration of alumni and their families Dec. 21 and 22. Including children, more than 200

recorder and some cash belonging to the Church.

The case was reported to the police and two suspects were arrested. They are free on bail, Mr. Stirk said.

First Bible study

Solomon Ayitey, a local church elder in Accra, Ghana, conducted the first Bible study in the Ga dialect, after Emmanuel Okai's successful study in the Twi dialect. Mr. Okai is a ministerial trainee in the Accra, Kumasi and Likpe-Mate, Ghana, churches.

"We intend to cover all the main doctrines of the Bible in the two languages, with both men covering the same doctrine in the same month, but on different Sabbaths," Mr. Stirk reported.

Largest congregation

On the Feast of Trumpets, Sept. 30, the Nairobi, Kenya, congregation was joined by scattered brethren and prospective members to form the largest congregation ever in Kenya—226.

The largest offering from the area populace was also taken up. Five baptisms took place in September, and many prospective members are requesting counseling.

Southeast Asia

Robert Fahey, Australia and



PARADE PARTICIPANTS—Four Imperial Schools students rode on "Peaceable Kingdom," Rotary International's 1990 Rose Parade float. The float was designed after the artwork that inspired the Ambassador College seal. The children, Ian Cataga, Michael Alaniz, Rachelle Joseph and Jacqueline Dolsey, represented children around the world who benefit from Rotary International's program to foster peace and global understanding. [Photo by Matthew Siebolds]

participated in the event.

"Some traveled from as far away as New Jersey, Georgia and Canada," Dave McKeever, reunion coordinator, said.

A Bible study with evangelist Leroy Neff, from the class of 1959, began the Sabbath Dec. 23 followed by cookies and conversation during a hospitality hour. The group was invited to Auditorium P.M. services where they were acknowledged by Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach.

That evening the group danced in the Imperial gymnasium to the sounds of Private Reserve, a five-member band led by Michael Hale, art director for *Youth 90*.

Sarah-Ann Woodfield, reunion treasurer, organized a Sunday champagne brunch.

"It was encouraging to see each other doing well and strong in the Church," said Jamie Lang, secretary for the reunion project and a 1979 graduate.

★ ★ ★

PASADENA—The Ambassador Foundation and Ambassador College were hosts Dec. 29 to a

Asian regional director, and his wife, Evelyn, visited Hong Kong and Taiwan in November.

Nov. 11 the Faheys met with the members in Hong Kong to discuss their plans after Hong Kong reverts back to China in 1997.

The Chinese in Hong Kong have a better standard of living than those on mainland China, which is classed as a developing country economically.

"Most of the Hong Kong residents are concerned how the Chinese communist government will govern capitalist Hong Kong once they resume ownership."

"Therefore, many of the Chinese, including our members, feel forced to look for residency elsewhere," he said. "But in their hearts they would prefer to continue their way of life in Hong Kong."

After visiting a *Plain Truth* subscriber early Nov. 12, the Faheys flew to Taipei, Taiwan, where they met Kenneth Lee, the only member there.

Dr. Lee, 82, is a medical doctor who was baptized in 1968. He retired 20 years ago but still helps out in a hospital.

"He has never been able to keep the Feast, due to visa problems in the past, and, more recently, his health," Mr. Fahey related.

At 15 Dr. Lee moved to Hong Kong, where he learned Cantonese and English. Later he studied radiology at an American university in Shanghai, China.

He came into contact with the Church when he was studying radiology in Chicago, Ill., from 1956 to 1960. He maintained contact with the Church after returning to Taiwan.

"Evelyn and I both enjoyed the opportunity to meet with Dr. Lee," Mr. Fahey said. "He is certainly one of the Church's more isolated members."

breakfast for international and area presidents of 12 major service clubs, according to evangelist David Hulme, vice president of the Ambassador Foundation.

The clubs have a worldwide membership in excess of 6.5 million, according to Mr. Hulme, who represented Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach at the breakfast.

Clubs taking part included Rotary International, Kiwanis International, the Tournament of Roses, Civitan, Optimist International, the Junior Chamber of Commerce, the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) Men's Club, Round Table International, the Pilot Club and the American Legion.

"Mr. Hulme was asked to briefly outline the background and activities of the Worldwide Church of God and its related organizations," said Michael Snyder, assistant director of Public Affairs, who also took part in the meeting.

★ ★ ★

PASADENA—About 1,200 brethren from the five Pasadena churches and six area congregations and 700 Ambassador College students served at the 101st Tournament of Roses Parade here Jan. 1.

The Rose Parade is the biggest annual fund raiser for the Pasadena churches and the college, and it gives brethren a "fantastic opportunity for providing service," said John Kennedy, assistant pastor of the Auditorium P.M. church, who helped coordinate this year's fund raiser for the Church and college.

"It was probably the most beautiful day we've had for the parade in the years I've been working it," Mr. Kennedy said.

The college and churches raised about \$70,000.

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