

Overall income for 1985 ends on positive note, says treasurer

By Leroy Neff
PASADENA — Here is good financial news! Church income in December increased an incredible 41.8 percent over December, 1984. Income for the year was up 13.1 percent.

Evangelist Leroy Neff is treasurer of the Worldwide Church of God.

After struggling unsuccessfully most of the year to meet income budget projections of a 12 percent increase, December ended considerably above budget. We had a low in April of only a 3 percent increase

and for eight months of the year we were below the income budget. Two months ago it looked improbable that we would meet the budget by the end of the year. Conditions improved, so a month ago there was a glimmer of hope that we might possibly meet it. The December increase removed all doubt.

Several factors were involved. We compared this December with a comparatively low December last year, which was only 1.4 percent more than the previous year. The major factor that gave such an excellent percentage increase this year was response to Pastor General Herbert W. Armstrong's co-worker

and member letters. Response by members and co-workers was the best in many years. There was an urgent need. Mr. Armstrong explained it and the response was incredible!

We in Pasadena wish to thank all of you for your generosity and sacrifice in this time of need.

In spite of such a fine increase, expenses outpaced income. As mentioned in previous reports, we exceeded the expense budget in order to take advantage of new and unexpected television station offerings. This cost extra money for station time and produced unprecedented requests for literature. This caused over-budget expenses in the Mail Processing Center.

At the time of this writing, it appears that expenses will exceed income by almost 1 percent for the year. We hope to recover that and add much more to needed reserves in 1986. This should be possible with a stringent no-increase budget for most departments.

When we have a good increase in income, there often is a marked decrease over the next month or two. If this happens in January and February, we could be back to the same difficult condition we were in. Please pray with us that this will not happen, and that we will have an excellent year financially. If so, the pace of God's work will be increased.

Latin Americans cope with eroding economy

By Jeff Zhorne
PASADENA — Despite continually worsening economic conditions Latin American brethren are "basically, employed and are far better off than people in the region as a whole," said evangelist Leon Walker, regional director for Spanish-speaking areas.

Mr. Walker returned here Dec. 27 after a 29-day trip to Puerto Rico, Venezuela, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala and Mexico.

Mr. Walker talked with the ministry about *Pura Verdad* (Plain Truth) Bible lectures and discussed biblical questions, administrative matters and problems the brethren face and how the Church can help.

"In rural, isolated areas, there is less prosperity, less industry," said Mr. Walker. "From these areas people flock to major cities, like Mexico City [Mexico], for example.

"The economic situation is always a big threat in Latin America. Because of tremendous debts and high inflation, the earning power of people is constantly eroding. People have about half the buying power and living standards than they did five years ago.

"They are falling behind every year; the gap is widening. Inflation rises twice as fast as salaries do," Mr. Walker continued. "This is reflected in the brethren's contributions."

Puerto Rico

Arriving in Puerto Rico Nov. 29, Mr. Walker gave the Sabbath sermon in San Juan the next day.

Sunday he conducted the marriage of Millie Gonzalez, daughter of Pablo Gonzalez, pastor of the San Juan church, and Joseph Martire, supervisor of Audiovisual Services in Pasadena, a division of the Ambassador College Library.

Mr. Walker left Dec. 5 for Venezuela, where Mr. Gonzalez conducts monthly Sabbath services in Barquisimeto for about 53 people and an outlying Bible study in Caracas for 31.

"We need a minister there to hold weekly services in Venezuela," said Mr. Walker. "We find that churches don't grow as well if a minister isn't there. It's like a

farmer with a field. Unless he tills and cultivates it, the land won't produce as much. You can't just sow seed."

While there, the regional director signed legal documents so a minister can be transferred to Venezuela "hopefully by early 1986."



LEON WALKER

"A number of legal things must be done," said Mr. Walker. "You sign things and obtain seals and notarizations. That's the way things are done in Latin America."

Dec. 8 Mr. Walker traveled to (See **ECONOMY**, page 7)

Seven nations meet for first time

Plain Truth reports on summit

PASADENA — Ambassador Foundation representative Leon Sexton and Plain Truth senior writer Keith Stump covered the first South Asian Regional Cooperation (SARC) summit in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on behalf of Pastor General Herbert W. Armstrong.

Mr. Armstrong received a formal invitation to the Dec. 7 and 8 seven-nation summit but had to decline for health reasons. Mr. Armstrong did, however, send a personal message to each of the seven leaders.

The summit formally launched the world's newest and most populous regional group, which hopes to copy the success of the European Economic Community (EEC) and ASEAN, the Association of South-east Asian Nations.

The summit brought together for the first time the leaders of India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and the Maldives Islands. The seven jointly represent one billion people — more than one fifth of all mankind. Their aim is to

promote mutual assistance in economic, cultural, technical and scientific fields.

"Mr. Armstrong's name is widely known and highly respected in South Asia," Mr. Sexton observed. "When I notified the secretaries of each of the seven leaders that Mr. Armstrong had sent a message, they asked me to either deliver it immediately, or they sent one of their assistants to my room to get it from me directly. It shows that they are interested in what Mr. Armstrong has to say."

Mr. Armstrong has met three of the seven South Asian leaders: President Hussain Ershad of Bangladesh, King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev of Nepal and President Junius Richard Jayewardene of Sri Lanka.

"Viewed in the context of the region's stormy past, the Dhaka summit represents a major breakthrough, a landmark in the history of South Asia," Mr. Stump observed upon his return to Pasadena. (See **SUMMIT**, page 5)

Media responds to PT article

By Michael A. Snyder
LAKE MOOGERAH, Australia — Response to the article "Sri Lanka — A Time of Testing!" in the July-August Plain Truth continues to be "extremely positive," according to Robert Morton, regional director for Australia and Asia.

Michael A. Snyder, international news editor, submitted this article from Australia.

Interviewed at the Summer Educational Program (SEP) camp here, Mr. Morton said, "We were a little surprised at the interest displayed in this particular article" (see "Letter Covers 'PT' Article," *W/N*, Dec. 2).

"Newspapers both in Australia and Sri Lanka have published letters and reports about the article, which was warmly appreciated by the Sri Lankan government," he said.

Mr. Morton said that the article was "no whitewash — certainly there is violence and unrest from racial tension in Sri Lanka, but while the rest of the world media concentrates on the negative side of the story, the Plain Truth article sought to explain the positive efforts of the Sri Lankan government to solve the problem."

The regional director explained that the article was "thoroughly researched before being published."

"We literally walked through rice paddies talking to both Tamils

and Sinhalese," Mr. Morton said.

The article was initiated by Leon Sexton, the Ambassador Foundation's representative for Sri Lanka, and Mr. Morton and Mohan Jayasekera, pastor of the Colombo, Sri Lanka, church, added later research and comments.

"In the end it resulted in a productive team effort between our resources in Australia, Sri Lanka and Editorial Services in Pasadena," he said.

The Daily News, a newspaper in Sri Lanka, printed a letter to the editor that was originally published in The Plain Truth, and The Plain Truth's response. The letters, in a section titled "Truth and Sensibility," were published in the Nov. 29 edition of the Daily News.



SUMMIT POSTER — Poster commemorating the first South Asian Regional Cooperation (SARC) summit features flags of the seven participating countries and a proposed seven-leaved symbol for the organization. Language at bottom is Bengali. [Photo by Keith Stump]

Year-end issue

The Worldwide News will publish a year-end summary Jan. 27. Included will be reports from the Church's 12 regional offices and some Pasadena departments.

Why national captivity for modern Israel

PASADENA — Ever since he has understood God's message for the modern-day descendants of Israel, Pastor General Herbert W. Armstrong has been faithful in proclaiming God's warning, "Cry aloud, spare not; lift up your voice like a trumpet; tell my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins" (Isaiah 58:1, Revised Authorized Version unless noted).

Failure to heed this warning, God's servant to this age has warned, will lead to the frightening specter of national captivity (Jeremiah 30:3 and 31:7-11, among other references). But what sins does God single out as being so serious as to bring about such a stern judgment?

Leviticus 18 is a good place to start. God went into detail to educate His people in what they were not to do regarding sexual practices, so they would not engage in the same laxness and even depravity of the nations around them. In this regard homosexuality was expressly forbidden (verse 22).

God said that those nations were defiled by such practices and therefore the land of Canaan, which the Israelites were to receive as their inheritance, "vomits out its inhabitants" (verse 25). The Israelites were warned not to "commit any of these abominations . . . lest the land vomit you out also when you defile it" (verses 26 and 28).

God is the same yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8), a bedrock principle bridging the Old and New Testaments that liberal theologians — many of whom excuse homosexuality and fail to denounce fornication and adultery — overlook.

But what else defiles the land and can cause its inhabitants to be expelled? Numbers 35:33-34 says that blood — meaning crimes of murder — "defiles the land . . . Therefore do not defile the land which you inhabit."

Who can deny that in America to-

day, moral perversion and a climate of bloodshed characterize much of society?

Legalizing perversion

According to the Sept. 2, 1984, *New York Times*, "56 cities, counties or states . . . now have laws or executive orders prohibiting at least some forms of discrimination against homosexuals."

"Activists hope . . . that work on the local level will build a 'groundswell' toward getting Congress to add sexual orientation to the protected classes of race, religion and sex in the 1964 Civil Rights Act."

Such a proposal has been before the House of Representatives since 1975. It is not without good reason that God refers to "you rulers of Sodom" in Isaiah 1:10.

The official encouragement of homosexuality has contributed to the explosive rise of a deadly disease — AIDS, or Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome — a "penalty of their error which was due" (Romans 1:27). This is leading to demands to remove the penalty, without changing one's life-style.

The politically powerful big city homosexual communities — homosexuals represent the largest number of AIDS victims — exert immense pressure on politicians to spend vast sums of public money on a crash program to find a cure for AIDS.

Then there's direct political action. Last summer, for example, the Los Angeles, Calif., city council passed a far-reaching ordinance banning discrimination against AIDS victims. It prohibits, among other things, restaurants from turning away customers with the disease or those merely suspected of having AIDS. The legislation's guidelines say it is safe for AIDS patients to continue as food workers, but caution them to "exercise care to avoid injury to the hands when preparing food."

Officials in 30 other cities have requested a copy of the Los Angeles ordinance with a view, obviously, to possible adoption.

Worried observers are concerned that public health standards are being compromised over concern for

line between the result (bloodshed) and the causative moral factors, most notably illegitimacy:

"Social scientists see [among some of the] reasons: high unemployment, drugs, gangs, and the rise in female-headed households and

aborted fetuses every year — up dramatically since the U.S. Supreme Court permitted abortion on demand in a landmark 1973 decision.

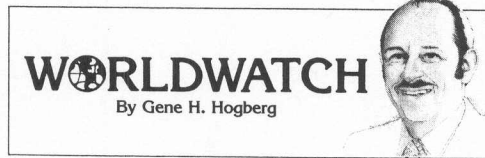
"The consequences of this judicial decision are now obvious," President Ronald Reagan wrote in 1984. "Since 1973, more than 15 million unborn children have had their lives snuffed out by legalized abortions. That is over ten times the number of Americans lost in all our nation's wars."

And vicariously, Americans witness thousands of make-believe murders on television and in motion pictures. Violent, thrill-a-minute police and private detective dramas dominate the current television fare.

'Loss of absolutes'

In his new book, *The Courage of a Conservative*, former Secretary of the Interior James G. Watt lays the blame for the nation's appalling ills — crime, abortion, alcohol and drug abuse, the decay of the inner city — to godless humanism, and specifically, he said, to "a loss of absolutes," and "the teaching of life-styles that

(See CAPTIVITY, page 4)



WORLDWATCH

By Gene H. Hogberg

the sensitivities of a self-professed minority.

'Bloodshed after bloodshed'

The land and the people in it are also defiled, as mentioned earlier, by blood.

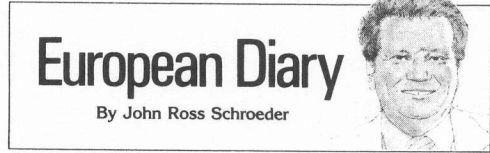
"Hear the word of the Lord, you children of Israel, for the Lord brings a charge against the inhabitants of the land: 'There is no truth or mercy or knowledge of God in the land. By swearing and lying, killing and stealing and committing adultery, they break all restraint, with bloodshed after bloodshed. Therefore the land will mourn; and everyone who dwells there will waste away . . .'" (Hosea 4:1-3).

In America's inner cities, murder statistics reveal warlike conditions. In the Sept. 16 edition of *Time* magazine, an article appeared titled "When Brother Kills Brother." It reported that "the leading cause of death among black males ages 15 to 24 in the U.S. is not heart disease, not cancer, not any natural cause. It is murder by other blacks . . . In America today, a white female has 1 chance in 186 [of being murdered]. A black female has 1 chance in 24. A black male has 1 chance in 29 . . ."

The *Time* account drew a direct

births out of wedlock. The rate of black teenage unemployment in the nation's cities is more than 50 percent in some areas . . . In those same cities, more than half the black children are born out of wedlock."

The climate of bloodshed is reflected in the shocking toll of



European Diary

By John Ross Schroeder

Agony of Liverpool

LIVERPOOL, England — This western English port city is a casualty of two historical forces — the decline of the British Empire and the emergence of the Common Market.

The city is in sad financial shape. The city council threatened to lay off all 31,000 city employees. A consortium of Swiss bankers rescued the city, and its immediate financial crisis is over, but the cost is staggering.

The city council is borrowing 60 million pounds from the Swiss over the next two years. With interest, the city would have to repay 87 mil-

lion pounds over a period of seven years — a tall order for a city in perpetual financial crisis. It is fortunate that payments do not begin for two years.

Liverpool's leaders are counting on a windfall if the Labor Party is returned to power in national elections in two years. However, for the present, the Conservatives are in power, and trying to predict elections two years in advance is risky.

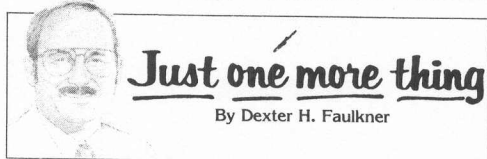
Origins of the crisis

The city's problems are partially political, but its economic history is far more telling.

Michael Parkinson, director of the Centre for Urban Studies at the University of Liverpool, wrote a book about the city's budget crisis titled *Liverpool on the Brink*.

Mr. Parkinson began the first chapter by writing: "Cities are the creatures of economics. They sur-

(See LIVERPOOL, page 7)



Just one more thing

By Dexter H. Faulkner

Lessons of poverty

Let's face it, making ends meet is not always easy. God certainly does promise to provide for all our needs and even to bless us with more than our needs require — when such a blessing is good for us.

But such a blessing may not always be the best thing. Sometimes what we need for our own character development may be a test — like a period of economic rough sledding. Financial trials, like any other kind of trial, can be clouds with silver linings if we face them with a positive attitude and seek to learn lessons from them.

To illustrate, notice the positive approach expressed in the following letter to *The Plain Truth*. The author is a Church member who, at the time she wrote this, was a "spiritual widow," that is to say, her husband was not a member:

"Just a few days after reading [a *Plain Truth* article about financial difficulties] I came across a paper I had written to myself several years ago entitled, 'Lessons We Learned in Poverty.' There are eight points, but before I share them with you, let me give you a little background information.

"I married at age 16, my husband had not completed high school. We had three children before our fifth anniversary. I was baptized when I was twenty . . . We were on welfare. It was a slow process, but we have been married fourteen years in July,

and God has richly blessed us!" And then she continues with:

Lessons we learned in poverty

1. Trust God, put Him first — pay tithes no matter how small.
2. Stay out of debt, do without but don't charge it.
3. Live within your conditions whatever they are. Find what you *have*, what you *can* do; it will be more than you think. (I learned to quilt, make clothes, garden, can. My work was never prize-winning quality, but I learned because I had to!)
4. Do the best you can with what you have. Find a use for everything. (Even garbage can improve your garden, and rags can replace expensive paper towels.)
5. Plan your future; everyone needs a dream.
6. Be willing to sacrifice to reach your dream. (We put 25 cents a week in a jar; that was a small way. We lived without heat or running water to buy our first house; that was a big sacrifice.)
7. Work on a contented, cheerful, thankful attitude.
8. Look for someone you can help somehow. Visit a nursing home, write letters, smile, talk to someone who looks lonely, give homemade gifts when you can and give your widow's mite.

Going over these points from time to time helps to remind me to keep them ever fresh on my mind.

One other thing I learned both while in hard financial times and when blessed: It is hard sometimes to be on the receiving side of service, harder on some people than others. These suggestions have helped me:

1. Be gracious, be thankful, always appreciate the thoughtfulness.
 2. If an object is given, put it to the best possible use.
 3. Never refuse to allow another to serve or give to you — don't rob others of the blessing of giving.
 4. Remember: Those who receive also serve. Through your act of receiving another is blessed. Their future generosity to others may be influenced by your reaction . . .
- She concluded, "Thank you for the opportunity to share some of what God has taught me through difficult circumstances!"

Positive approach

In other words, instead of letting financial problems — or any other kind of problem — discourage and dismay us, we should look on trials more positively than we often do. They are challenges. They are opportunities to grow and build character. If we look at them that way, God will see us through.

My dear brothers and sisters, is your life full of difficulties and problems? Let us live James' admonition.

"Consider it wholly joyful, my brethren, whenever you are enveloped in or encounter trials of any sort, or fall into various temptations. Be assured and understand that the trial and proving of your faith bring out endurance and steadfastness and patience. But let endurance and steadfastness and patience have full play and do a thorough work, so that you may be [people] perfectly and fully developed (with no defects), lacking in nothing" (James 1:2-4, The Amplified Bible).

Letters TO THE EDITOR

More meaningful lives

Thanks for everything. One night on a foreign station I heard you [Herbert W. Armstrong] say *The Plain Truth* is the best magazine in the world, and it is free. So I wanted to see how good and free it was. It is what you said it was, plus . . . it's astounding.

From it I learned I would not be going to any heaven, and Christ was not resurrected on a Sunday, and other thought-provoking things. I decided then to give some money to all "Do-Gooders," and you were one of them. After that, I got in touch with your Georgetown [Guyana] Office, and there I met with the minister . . . He was able to show me the answers from the Bible to all the questions that had troubled me.

Thanks very much again. You are not a "Do-Gooder," but one of the few men who knows what God says. I like the way you answer everything by the Bible, so that one can read for themselves what it says. I am now a happier man with my family. We study the Bible diligently every day. Our lives are more meaningful, because we know why we are here and where we are going.

F.F.
Georgetown, Guyana

☆☆☆

Third-tithe blessings

I have just completed a very successful third tithe year and would like to share my experiences, especially with those who dread facing the third tithe year.

Just before the year began I lost my glasses. Unknown to me a number of brethren at the Feast of Tabernacles (See LETTERS, page 5)

The Worldwide News

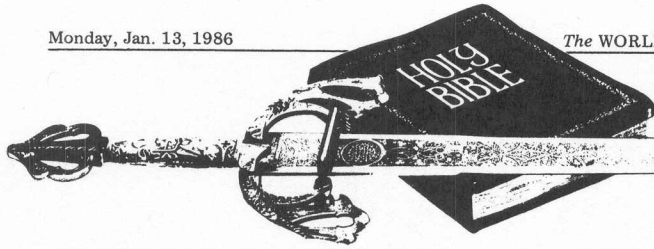
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IRON SHARPENS IRON

Are you... Singled out?

By Dan C. Taylor

Have you ever seen one of those bumper stickers that reads: "Happiness is being single"? What's your reaction? Do you give an enthusiastic nod of approval, or an apathetic shrug of the shoulders? Or do you have the urge to scream, "Oh yeah, what's so happy about it?"

Dan C. Taylor is a contributing writer for The Plain Truth.

Statistical reports from throughout the Western world indicate that the number of singles has increased dramatically in the past decade.

Many of us reading this article are, like me, included in these singles statistics. Some are single by choice. Some are without mates through the anguish of divorce. Others of us have simply not found the right person.

How about it? Are you happy being single? Or have you given up hope of ever finding a mate? Maybe you are actively pursuing marriage. Perhaps you're just plain "singled out" and willing to try anything to find that special someone.

There's an old saying that rings true: "Never complain to anyone who doesn't have the power to change the matter." There is someone we can appeal to. The God who created you, who created the marriage relationship, says, "Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart" (Psalm 37:4, New International Version, unless noted). Yes, God offers encouragement and a promise of reward if we diligently seek Him.

Nobody knows?

Some singles develop a good-sized martyr complex. "No one understands!" they say. Well, let's get this straight right now. To begin with, we are not somehow defective if we're single. Sometimes we put pressures on ourselves that can develop into all kinds of inferiority complexes, even paranoia.

Well-intentioned but unthinking married friends can add to our problems through some of their remarks and "helpful" suggestions. "Say, aren't you trying?" "How old are you now?" "Found anybody yet?" That's not the kind of encouragement single people need. Concern, yes. Compassion, yes. Even a gentle push now and then. But mostly, singles need your prayers.

Jesus Christ was single throughout His physical existence, because He was actually betrothed to spiritual Israel. He knew the fun that can be experienced and the loneliness that can come from the single life-style. All singles can take heart that, whether we are joyful, ambivalent or exasperated about being single, Jesus Christ knows how we feel. He felt it Himself.

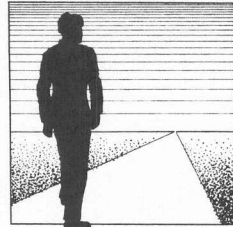
"For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are — yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need" (Hebrews 4:15-16).

If you are content being single, so much the better. The apostle Paul

was content in whatever state he found himself (Philippians 4:11-13). If you aren't content, instead of looking at your single status as a curse, why not view it as time to prepare yourself for marriage? Learn those foundational elements that will lead to a happy marriage. Don't give up on ever being married, but make the most of your time while you are single. Find contentment in preparing for a worthwhile goal!

Redeem the time

God wants us to do more than just bide our time or hang in there. Jesus Christ came to show us an abundant



Artwork by Monte Wolverton

way of life (John 10:10, Authorized Version). That means we need to grow and not fall back into a lethargic posture of "holding down the fort."

Instead of giving up hope, out of frustration or bitterness, of being married, why not try a positive, can-do approach? When was the last time you read some books that might help you better understand the opposite sex? An excellent place to start would be to read or reread *The Missing Dimension In Sex* by Pastor General Herbert W. Armstrong.

Have you ever thought about talking to an older friend, married or single, of the opposite sex, about his or her perspective on dating and marriage? What is it that he or she enjoys about or needs from the opposite sex? Too many times we find ourselves seeking advice from our peers. And, more often than not, our friends (of the same sex) don't know any more on the subject than we do.

There are many problems in dating and relationships that could be avoided with an understanding of the way the opposite sex thinks. Now is the time to educate ourselves.

Let's ask ourselves some rather personal questions. How about my appearance? Could I stand to improve myself? No, plastic surgery is not the answer. But perhaps I could stand to lose a little weight. It's hard, but it can be done.

What about the way I dress? Mr. Armstrong stresses buying the best one can afford. Just dressing neatly and cleanly could go a long way in some cases. What about my hair, my fingernails, my own personal hygiene?

These points of grooming are important. They say a lot about my attitude toward myself and others.

And what about dating? Some singles have developed a fortress mentality. They wait for their mate to be parachuted from the sky through the enemy lines.

No, we must do our part. But if you find dating difficult, why not

try organizing activities that include singles and married people, young and old? What about a potluck or a picnic at the park? Let a group setting be a method to break the ice.

Observe and learn. Take the pressure of a one-on-one situation off yourself. Have fun for a change.

But realize that your attitude goes a long way in how others will perceive you. If you are in a bitter "they're all alike" (meaning no good) attitude, you will be happy to know that you will probably never have to put up with one of "them."

God's role

Many singles are at the end of their ropes. They're trapped between Pharaoh's army of frustration and the Red Sea of loneliness. Isn't it time we "stand firm and... see the deliverance the Lord will bring" (Exodus 14:13)?

So many times we get an attitude of "Why bring God into this?" With something as important as marriage to consider, we had better hope the Creator God is involved. He will be — if we let Him.

Mr. Armstrong wrote in *The Missing Dimension In Sex* the following about God's role: "It is God who joins together in marriage a husband and a wife. Therefore it ought to be — in your own interest — God who selects for you the husband or wife you are going to marry! And God will do this, if you ask Him, and refrain from getting in a hurry and taking it into your own hands! This may require self-restraint and patience, yes, and also faith. But if you rely on God, He will not fail you. And if He selects your lifelong mate, you'll have the right one!" (pages 218-219).

In Proverbs 18:22 God says, "He who finds a wife [husband] finds what is good and receives favor from the Lord." "Houses and wealth are inherited from parents, but a prudent wife [husband] is from the Lord" (Proverbs 19:14).

Milestones in Church's work

January, 1917 — Herbert W. Armstrong and Loma Dillon meet in Motor, Iowa.

Jan. 7, 1934 — The *World Tomorrow* radio program goes on the air.

January, 1953 — The *World Tomorrow* program, broadcasting from Radio Luxembourg, reaches Europe.

Jan. 30, 1960 — Gerald Waterhouse conducts the first church service in Sydney, Australia, with 30 people attending.

Jan. 5, 1965 — Radio London, a pirate ship station, begins broadcasting *The World Tomorrow* from international waters off the coast of Britain. By the end of the year the program goes out over four pirate stations. By August, 1967, when the British government bans the ships, the stations have produced 63,000 first-time responses.

Jan. 14, 1972 — Ground is broken to begin construction of the Ambassador Auditorium.

Jan. 21, 1975 — Mr. Armstrong addresses 400 guests in Bombay representing the Indian government.

January, 1979 — *The Good News* returns to full-color magazine format, appearing 10 times a year.

Jan. 6, 1981 — Mr. Armstrong meets with Japanese Prime Minister Zenko Suzuki at his Tokyo residence.

Jan. 1, 1984 — The *World Tomorrow* television program, broadcasting from Monte Carlo with Italian subtitles, reaches Italy.

God means what He says. Why not review Mr. Armstrong's "Personal" "Let God Fight Your Battles!" from the March, 1985, *Good News*. In it he wrote: "God does not promise us an easy time during this life in this world. But He does promise to fight our battles for us — to deliver us from every trouble and affliction."

Why not let God fight this battle for us? God is willing and able to give us the desires of our hearts. "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen" (Ephesians 3:20).

We must ask God for faith, to strengthen our belief and to help us overcome our unbelief. We must do our part. Remember, "Faith without deeds is useless" (James 2:20). The most important thing we can do is ask for God's intervention. Pray fervently, consistently, believing that God will hear and answer.

In Psalm 5:1-3 David wrote: "Give ear to my words, O Lord, consider my sighing. Listen to my

cry for help, my King and my God, for to you I pray. Morning by morning, O Lord, you hear my voice; morning by morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation."

God will give us the strength to be patient. God loves and cares for each of us. We've each been singled out for individual attention by a loving Father. "He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak... but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint" (Isaiah 40:29-31).

God will not do for us what we are not willing to do ourselves. And yes, we may know disappointments and heartaches along the way. I am single, 30 years old, and very much waiting on God to choose my mate for me. Sure it's tough sometimes. But what is the alternative — an unhappy marriage I rushed into, or a divorce? No, marriage is a right goal to pray for. Marriage is a goal we can ask God to fulfill for ourselves and others.

God is waiting to do his part — what about you?

The spiritual antidote

Humility helps prevent offenses

By Jerold W. Aust

"Sweetheart, I am so sorry I accused you of something you did not do. Can you find it in your heart to forgive my dad?"

"Of course, Dad. I forgive you. You've probably had a hard day. Don't worry about it."

Jerold W. Aust, associate pastor of the San Diego, Calif., and Yuma, Ariz., churches, is a regular contributor to *The Good News*.

What a sweet, precious, forgiving attitude my daughter showed! True, she had a habit of occasionally leaving things out on the bathroom sink. But then, maybe she was only copying a habit of my own!

Yet here she was, held guilty by me, tried and convicted without a chance to defend herself. It was unfair of me. But because of her quickness to forgive, I was blessed with a

lesson I won't soon forget.

It is easy to be unforgiving toward one another. How often do we become upset because of real or imagined offenses? Pride has to be there, of course, for an offense to take root. If we quickly recognize what is happening to us, we can quickly humble ourselves and starve out the root of offense.

But what usually happens? We feed the alleged offense with ego, pride and competitiveness. Before we know it, we become bitter toward others — a waste of energy and time.

Together, these offenses accumulate and infect our future friendships. Eventually, we can find ourselves alienated from everyone around us — and very lonely!

Satan is behind it all. Since we can't see him, we heedlessly play into his warped, bitter, manipulative hands. God says he acts like a roaring lion ready to devour its prey (1 Peter 5:8). Satan wants us to be-

come bitter. But we can foil his insidious plot with humility.

Jesus said, "Except you be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 18:3-4).

Here's a lesson for us to follow. Human nature naturally wants exaltation and status. People with this overriding attitude can be easily offended (Matthew 20:20-24).

Clearly, the spiritual antidote is humility — an understanding of the innate weakness of our flesh — not to think of ourselves more highly than we should.

Pride lurked at my door, but with my daughter's childlike humility standing guard, I was able to catch myself. Her childlike, forgiving attitude helped shore up the love we share. Let's learn from our children!

ACCENT ON THE LOCAL CHURCH

Brethren take part in dances, socials

The CAMBRIDGE, England, church was host to a barn dance at the Comberton Village College Dec. 7. After Sabbath services and a meal, brethren cleared the hall for dancing. Guests from the Luton, Northampton and Birmingham, England, churches attended.

Music was provided by the Cherry Hinton Band, and refreshments were served by Harold Peacock, a deacon in the Cambridge church, and his wife, Lucy.

The MILWAUKEE and WEST BEND, Wis., churches were hosts for a pre-Thanksgiving dinner and family social Nov. 23.

The church provided turkey, dressing, gravy, salads, vegetables, side dishes and desserts. The dinner, served buffet-style to more than 350 people, was prepared by several women.

After dinner Guy Swenson, assistant pastor of the West Bend church, was master of ceremonies for eight entertainment acts.

Eugene Noel, pastor of the two churches, served as caller for a square dance. Music was provided by an area church band.

About 150 people attended the annual KALAMAZOO and COLD-WATER, Mich., dinner dance Nov. 30. Guests came from the Grand Rapids and Lansing, Mich., and Elkhart, Ind., churches.

The theme for the event was "Pilgrim's Fest," and decorations in-

cluded autumn arrangements on each table. The meal included three entrees, vegetables, salads, sherbet and ice cream.

Entertainment included British folk music performed by a husband-and-wife duo.

The Jolly Coachmen played dance music ranging from the 1920s to the 1980s.

HULL, England, brethren attended a social with a nautical theme Dec. 7.

The hall was decorated to represent the dining room of a luxury cruise liner, the *Ambassador*. Captain for the evening was David Magowan, pastor of the Bradford, Hull, Middlesbrough, Newcastle upon Tyne and Sheffield, England, churches.

The ship's catering staff served a meal, and brethren and children wore international attire. Some men dressed as ship's officers.

Entertainment included deck quilts, a life jacket demonstration by Malcolm Taylor and a barber-shop skit in which three blindfolded wives shaved their husbands. The evening ended with a sing-along led by some of the ship's officers.

Brethren from the LONDON, SOMERSET and MIDDLESBORO, Ky., churches combined Dec. 8 for a variety show and square dance at the Corbin, Ky., Civic Center.

Adults and children entertained the audience with piano solos, gui-

tars, banjos, singing, gymnastics, comedy skits and other instrumental numbers.

The young adults group, hosts for the social, decorated the stage as a barn interior. Roger West, pastor of the three churches, was master of ceremonies.

After the show the group ate a potluck dinner and participated in a square dance with a professional square dance caller. Children's movies were shown in a baby-sitting room. Refreshments were provided during the dance.

CLEVELAND, Ohio, EAST singles sponsored an annual dance Nov. 30. About 130 people attended the event, which began with a buffet dinner. Dan Gregory served as disc jockey.

Philip Stickens, Diane Gilchrist, Cheryl Erickson, M. Taylor, Paul Luecke and Rick Coffey.

Members participate in sales, skip-a-thon

Brethren of the COOS BAY, Ore., church conducted a garage sale Dec. 6. The sale raised \$904, which was sent to Church headquarters in Pasadena.

Items sold were donated by brethren, and several women worked at the sale. The sale was advertised in the area newspaper and on two swap-and-sell radio programs.

Brethren from the BOSTON, Mass., church concluded a fund-raising project the last week of November. For one month, brethren sold citrus fruit.

Jim Franks, pastor of the Providence, R.I., and Boston churches, encouraged brethren to view the sale as "a genuine opportunity for us to apply the spiritual principles of organization and cooperation."

Mr. Franks set a goal to sell 2,000 20-pound boxes of Hamlin or navel oranges and grapefruit. Brethren sold 2,100 boxes to family members, friends and business associates, not to Church members or the public.

Jim Arnaldo, a Boston deacon, coordinated the fruit sale. Six



SHIP OFFICERS — From left, David Magowan, pastor of the Bradford, Hull, Middlesbrough, Newcastle upon Tyne and Sheffield, England, churches, Malcom Taylor and Joe Benn are ship's officers at a Hull church social Dec. 7 on the cruise liner, the *Ambassador*.

team captains were responsible for regions. They were John Gordon, Gary McConnaughey, Jerry Nolan, Mark Palmerino, Art Rodrick and Rollo Tucker. Harry Aiguier coordinated distribution of the fruit.

Some of the money went to

the church activity fund, and some was sent to Pasadena as an offering.

Sixteen ADELAIDE, Australia, YOU and YES members jumped rope in a skip-a-thon at Rymill Park Nov. 24.

Afterward children and parents had a barbecue lunch, flew kites, played volleyball and went boating.

Bruce Scotland organized the skip-a-thon, and Robert Bellon organized the barbecue and afternoon activities.

Sally Villers, Dick Travers and Bruce and Margaret Scotland.

Children share party games

The NEWCASTLE, Australia, annual children's party took place Nov. 24. Each child invited a grandparent, and children without grandparents adopted a senior Church member.

The group played games, which required the cooperative effort of the child and grandparent. Each child, assisted by YOU members, served afternoon tea to his or her grandparent. L. Shone.

Marriage seminar conducted

The ministry of the ATLANTA, Ga., EAST and WEST churches conducted an all-day marriage seminar Dec. 8.

Speakers were Gordon Harry, associate pastor, whose topic was Man's Role as a Husband; Martin Fannin, local church elder, Man's Role as Father; Charles Calhoun, local church elder, Woman's Role as a Mother; Frank Wagoner, local church elder, Woman's Role as a Wife; Doug McCoy, local church elder, Family Finances; Randi Bloom, assistant pastor, Marital Communication; and Kenneth Martin, church pastor, Sex in Marriage.

The lectures were followed by a question-and-answer session. Randi Bloom.

Singles attend beach outing

Fourteen singles from the LEGAZPI, Philippines, church attended a beach outing Nov. 17 at Reyes' Beach Resort in Santo Domingo, Philippines.

After a potluck meal at noon, church pastor Dionisio Catchillar and his wife, Magdalena, treated the singles to ice cream. Mr. Catchillar conducted a Bible study in the afternoon and answered questions.

The singles fellowshipped and took a hike to Santo Domingo Park. Efren V. Narido.

Areas mark Thanksgiving

Five hundred fifteen BALTIMORE, Md., brethren attended their annual Thanksgiving Sabbath Nov. 23. They met at Franklin High School in Reisterstown, Md., for services and a social.

A stage displayed food items, which were later distributed to needy families. After a potluck in the school cafeteria children played games and watched the movie *Born Free*, while others square danced to live music. Carl White, a deacon in the Washington, D.C., church, called the dance.

The SAULT STE. MARIE, Ont., and WOLVERINE, Mich., churches combined for Sabbath services and their annual Thanksgiving social Nov. 30 at the Wolverine Elementary School.

After services brethren ate a meal of turkey, pheasant, partridge, venison, dressing, gravy, potatoes, corn, salads, breads and desserts.

The school gymnasium was decorated with hay bales, corn stalks, squash, pumpkins and dried ears of corn. After the meal brethren square danced to the calls of Ann

Wilson and played table games. Children learned craft making and some dances.

Jon and Ginnie Cook and Judy Sumner.

Volleyball weekend takes place

Nine churches participated in a district volleyball weekend Nov. 23 and 24 at Midview High School in GRAFTON, Ohio.

After Sabbath services Nov. 23, a YOU and YES Bible bowl took place. Cleveland, Ohio, West placed first. Saturday evening Cleveland East took first place in family volleyball games, and a family dance took place.

Sunday, volleyball continued. First place finishers were the Cleveland East men and Canton, Ohio, women and girls. Renee Williams.

Captivity

(Continued from page 2)

are contrary to the basic views of the Judeo-Christian religion." (Mr. Watt's book, published by Simon and Schuster, makes for interesting reading.)

Another secular prophet warning the nation of what it is doing to itself is John A. Howard, president of the Rockford Institute. In a speech delivered in Chattanooga, Tenn., a year ago, Mr. Howard said that "in the realm of individual behavior, the American society has somehow lost the capacity to say this is good or this is right and that is bad or that is wrong... What we are looking at is a cultural failure of staggering dimensions... Moral relativity has triumphed.

"History tells us that no group of people can live together or accomplish anything if each person does whatever he pleases. The result is

chaos... The mass catastrophe of a drug culture gone out of control is only one of numerous penalties we are paying for that lack of vision."

Indeed, "where there is no vision, the people perish" (Proverbs 29:18, Authorized Version). God, His laws and way of life are being excluded, and are vanishing from the culture of the United States and other Western societies. "There is no truth..." as the prophet Hosea said, "or knowledge of God in the land" (4:1).

And the land—in the not-too-distant future—will spew out its godless inhabitants, as forewarned in Ezekiel 33:28-29:

"For I will make the land most desolate, her arrogant strength shall cease, and the mountains of Israel shall be so desolate that no one will pass through.

"Then they shall know that I am the Lord, when I have made the land most desolate because of all their abominations which they have committed."

Ladies night ends club year

The last ladies night of the year for the CAPE TOWN, South Africa, Spokesman Club took place at the Sea Point Civic Centre Nov. 24.

Tabletoppers were led by Morgan Kriedmann. Toastmaster John Laggar introduced speakers Manfred Peter, Jack Jelbert, Derek Ringrose, Gert de Jager and Stanley James. Evaluators were Brian Young, Mike Carboni, Albert Oettle, Raymond Dicks and Walter Bester.

Mr. Peter received his gradua-

tion certificate. Andre van Belkum, Cape Town pastor and club director, thanked outgoing club officers and ministers George Efthyvolous, Peter Hawkins and Terence Browning for their help and cooperation.

After the meeting a meal of roast lamb, vegetables, apple pudding and cream, wine and coffee were served. The meal was prepared by Nellie Kriel, Wilma Nigrini and Billy and Anne Delpport. Singles served as waiters and waitresses. Sylvia Young.



CLUB SERVERS — Pictured are kitchen staff and singles serving as waiters and waitresses at the Cape Town, South Africa, Spokesman Club's final ladies night of the year Nov. 24. [Photo by Peter James]

Matriarch relates stories of hard work, trials, trust

By Barri Armitage

NORFOLK, Va. — During the 1985 Feast of Tabernacles nine rooms of the Barclay Towers in Virginia Beach, Va., were occupied by 34 people with the same last name. Elsie Cooley, 67, a member who attends the Meridian, Miss., church, her seven married sons and their families, and her two single sons met at the Feast site here for a family reunion.

Barri Armitage, a deaconess in the Washington, D.C., church, wrote this article while attending the Feast of Tabernacles in Norfolk, Va.

The story begins in the early 1940s, when Mrs. Cooley and her mother-in-law, Sally Mae Cooley, began listening to Pastor General Herbert W. Armstrong on a battery-operated radio in Toomsba, Miss.

The two women explained the Sabbath to the Pentecostal church they attended.

The elder Mrs. Cooley died, and Mrs. Elsie Cooley continued in the truth.

Before Mrs. Cooley knew there was a Church, she gathered her children every night to listen to Mr. Armstrong, according to one of her sons.

Another son added: "On the Sabbath I remember not working in the fields. She'd sit us down and teach us what she was learning from the Bible and the Correspondence Course."

Mrs. Cooley's husband, Horace, whom she married in 1936, is not a Church member. Her sons told her their mother used wisdom and submitted to their father as the head of the family. "None of us became wimps."

Said Mrs. Cooley of her husband: "He got polio after the first five children and was told he'd never walk again. But he continued to pull and push at his legs and didn't give up. He was struck just before the harvest, so I got the crop in that year. But he was only down six weeks."

In 1969 Mrs. Cooley wrote to Pasadena with a scripture question. This led to her first visit by a minister.

Mrs. Cooley recalled: "As it happened, I was cooking collards and

hog meat, and the whole house smelled. When the minister explained about unclean meats, I told my husband. He said: 'Well, you don't have to cook separate for me. I'll stop eating pork too.' He has never hampered me about the Church."

Mrs. Cooley was baptized in



ELSIE COOLEY

1968. One son tells how he will never forget that day because "we kids dug the hole from a stream."

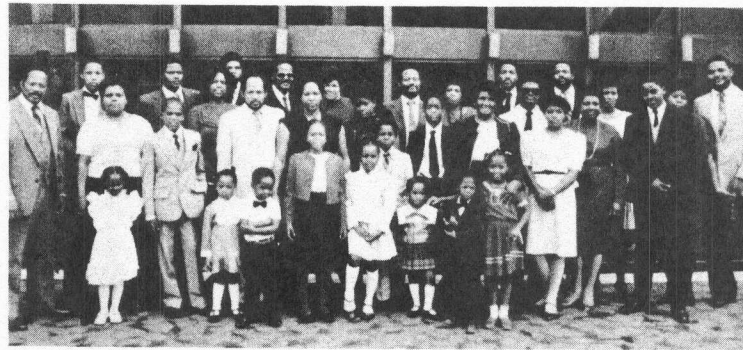
She first began attending Sabbath services in Jackson, Miss. After a church was begun in Meridian, she was the only black member for some years. "I didn't feel awkward, but when I looked around and realized that I was the only black person God had called from around there, I just felt thankful to Him," she said.

In 1984 Mr. Cooley attended his first Feast.

The rest of the story includes hard work, trials, healings and trust in God. Mrs. Cooley's stories are full of humor and a positive attitude. "God always provides," is her theme.

When asked keys to success she might pass on to other parents, Mrs. Cooley is quick to give God the glory. "God does the calling," she says. "I prayed a lot, and the main help was the teaching they got by listening every night to Mr. Armstrong. We all sat in the same room together — my husband, too — and never missed. That, plus the little I could teach them along the way, must have sunk in."

The Cooleys are full of stories. For instance, two of the sons, Thomas and Johnny, married a pair



FESTIVAL REUNION — Elsie Cooley, 67, a member since 1968 who attends the Meridian, Miss., church, and 33 family members pause during the 1985 Feast of Tabernacles in Norfolk, Va. [Photo by Kevin Pierce]

of sisters, Bessie and Carolyn. Two other sons, Tommy and Roosevelt, married another pair of sisters, Marilyn and Renee. Another son and a daughter married a sister and brother pair.

With 14 children, Mrs. Cooley says she ran out of names she liked. Thus, two sons are Thomas and Tommy. James' first name is Willie, and his sister is Willie Mae. Three sons have Lee for a middle

name, and both daughters have the middle name of Mae.

This year was Mrs. Cooley's 16th Festival. She was accompanied by nine sons, seven daughters-in-law and 17 grandchildren.

Displayed courage in face of troubles

Member's death ends suffering

By Craig Jackson

BAKERSFIELD, Calif. — Members of God's Church undergo many severe trials, but relatively few are called upon to endure prolonged physical suffering that ends in death. Harry Haight, 62, was one of those individuals. He died here Sept. 17.

Craig Jackson is a member who attends the Bakersfield, Calif., church.

Mr. Haight's life story is one of courage in the face of devastating troubles, especially in his last few years.

He was born in Michigan in 1923 with a hereditary disease that caused progressive loss of vision. His eyesight steadily worsened from about age 9, and by the time he was in college he was legally blind. Later he was completely without sight.

Mr. Haight was hit by a truck at 19, causing a head injury that led to trouble with his memory in later years.

He graduated from Michigan State College for the Blind with a degree in speech therapy. His goal was to help those with com-

munication disabilities.

In 1948 he moved to California and married in the mid-1950s. But he and his wife, Margaret, chose not to have children because of Mr. Haight's hereditary condition.

In the early 1960s the Hights moved to Bakersfield. In 1966 Mr. Haight was baptized into God's Church. His wife did not attend services or become a member.

Mr. Haight obtained a ham radio license and listened to shortwave broadcasts. He was a musician, able to play the piano, organ and trumpet. He worked as a drummer for musical groups.

He graduated from Spokesman Club and attended Graduate Club until a few months before his death. He attended every Feast but one from 1966 to 1984.

On a trip to downtown Bakersfield in October, 1981, Mr. Haight was again hit by a truck. The truck ran over his abdomen and hips, frac-

turing his pelvis and crushing his bladder.

He had emergency repair surgery, but the damage was so severe that he did not fully recover. He was confined to a wheelchair and bed for the next four years. Sometimes he could walk a little, but with difficulty.

He had muscle spasms in his back that at times caused unrelenting, agonizing pain.

Through this, Mr. Haight continued attending Sabbath services, Bible studies, Spokesman Club, out-of-town Holy Day services and the Feast of Tabernacles.

Mr. Haight remained loyal to God's Church through his trials. He was eager to talk with other members, hear about their lives and offer encouragement or advice.

His presence at Sabbath services was an inspiration to many members, who considered their own problems insignificant by comparison.

Summit

(Continued from page 1)

"Relations among the seven have long been characterized by suspicion, mistrust, hostility and open warfare. Social and economic development suffered as a result. Now they hope to change all that."

The meetings were characterized by warmth, enthusiasm and understanding, and removed some of the long-standing regional mistrust, Mr. Stump observed. The seven leaders displayed a spirit of friendship and goodwill, and a commitment to uplift the lives of the poor despite the seemingly insurmountable obstacles.

During their stay in Bangladesh the two spoke with high-level officials of the seven nations and compared impressions of the summit with foreign journalists.

While flying to Calcutta, India, afterward, Mr. Stump discovered that many of the Indian journalists are familiar with Mr. Armstrong and his message. The Delhi bureau chief of a major chain of Indian newspapers said he is a longtime reader of *The Plain Truth*, and commented specifically on a number of articles.

He asked Mr. Stump to send him booklets explaining the Church's doctrines, which he found "of great interest, unlike anything I have ever encountered."

"The goals and aspirations are set forth by the seven leaders as admirable," Mr. Stump summarized. "They have shown courage and

foresight in launching SARC. They realize there can be no gain from mutual conflict and disunity. They wish to work together to achieve peace and stability. But, how to put words into deeds will be a major challenge."

Mr. Stump observed that though many are looking forward to a new era of peace and prosperity because of SARC, there remain many contentious political issues that were purposely excluded from discussion at the Dhaka summit — issues that could threaten to undo all that was accomplished there.

Traditional rivals India and Pakistan are engaged in an arms race, and have serious suspicions about each other's nuclear intentions. "As Mr. Armstrong has so often said, the people of this world do not have peace in their minds and hearts and are not living the way that produces peace," Mr. Stump noted. "This is the paradox that frustrates even the wisest and best-intentioned leaders."

In this vein, King Birendra observed: "The world never has had in its recorded history such technological resources as it has today to cope with poverty and hunger on a global scale. But the gradual erosion of the collective spirit has aggravated our problems and frustrated our efforts."

A future issue of *The Plain Truth* will carry an illustrated article about the SARC summit. A separate article is planned about Bangladesh itself, one of the world's largest Muslim countries, according to Dexter H. Faulkner, *Plain Truth* executive editor.

Letters TO THE EDITOR

(Continued from page 2)

(1984) generously put together more than enough money to replace my spectacles as well as do an overdue eye examination!

God blessed me with a new job at the start of 1985. By far this has been the most rewarding and satisfying job I've had. At a time when many have had to reduce their standard of living, the Eternal was actively improving mine — moving me from being a borrower to a lender. My new job now allows me to have a more direct and active part in God's work.

This year I was able to entertain and give more to others than before. The Eternal also saw to the increase of my wardrobe with fine clothing — more than I have been able to buy myself over the past three years. Perhaps I should stop there. But then there is yet more to credit God for. I acquired some pieces of furniture at a highly discounted price. After paying the first installment I was relieved from paying the balance of 60 percent!

David tells us to delight ourselves in the Eternal and He would grant us the desires of our heart (Psalm 27:4). One of my desires is to travel. That became possible as I was able to attend the Feast of Tabernacles in the United Kingdom

with the major part of my expenses paid. A special thanks to those who made that possible. And what pleasure to know of the many widows, orphans and others who have been helped by the third tithes we paid. It's wonderful to have been able to serve.

Now I have a deeper understanding of who and what God is. Assuredly His is the way of give. We should endeavor to make giving our way of life too. Those are just some of the major blessings I experienced during this recently concluded third tithing year. I personally believe that the only thing that stood in the way of an even greater outpouring of God's blessings was my own self. For one of us has so fully submitted ourselves to God to see how much He will bless us.

With that I say to those embarking on the third tithing year: welcome and embrace this opportunity to serve and prove God's faithfulness in keeping His promises.

Kenroy Allen
Kingston, Jamaica

Children write

I'm writing to you now cause I've been wanting to get *Youth 85*. I also been wanting to know if you are feeling any better? I've been praying about you. I love you. I want to tell you something, kids at my school have been asking lots of questions about The Worldwide Church of God. If anybody asks about it I tell them. I'm not ashamed, I'm proud. Do you know what? My teacher is all

ready singing Christmas songs and not even one song about Thanksgiving. It seems as if they are not thankful. It sort of makes me mad.

Melissa Buley (age 9)
Canby, Ore.

My name is Alyson. I am nine years old. I go to the Uvalde church. I would like to thank you very much for the YES [Youth Educational Services] lessons and other material for young people. I especially like "Children's Corner" and the stories about Major the dog, in *The Worldwide News*.

I feel sad that you are sick and I pray that God will heal you soon. Please take care of yourself.

Alyson Alexander
Uvalde, Tex.

Grateful reader

Since becoming a part of God's great work almost three years ago, I realize that it takes more work than you first think to get a job done right. I thank God and His team for putting together the many articles in *The Worldwide News*. It is filled with encouragement, love, understanding and truth. There are gentle reproofs and stimulating challenges.

Again I say thank you, for the hard work you do. It really is a blessing to see people stick to their job, especially as the demands are so great. Continue and don't give up. Don't stop now. I'm just beginning to grow!

Mrs. L. Reese
Landover, Md.

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

UPDATE

PASADENA — Four Ambassador College students received their diplomas at graduation ceremonies here in the faculty lounge Jan. 7.

"No course of instruction... can ever hope to do more than lay a foundation," Deputy Chancellor **Raymond McNair** said in his address to graduates and guests. However, the name of Ambassador College stands high in God's eyes in imparting to its students not only high academic excellence, but time-tested moral standards, which will then become successful, he continued.

"I hope you young people will never underestimate the powerful influence of your example," he said.

In conclusion, Mr. McNair asked the graduates to remember and follow the dedication and example of founder and chancellor **Herbert W. Armstrong** and of the faculty and administration.

Gilbert Javier, from the Philippines, and **Lesley Stainthorp**, a married student with two children, received associate of science degrees. **Wesley Evans**, a married student, and **Anthony Styer**, from Burns, Tenn., received bachelor of arts degrees.

Two other students, **Doris Menze** of West Germany and **Larry Roybal** of Mexico, received associate of arts degrees, but were unable to attend the ceremony.

PASADENA — More than 1,800 prospective students have requested application forms from Ambassador College, according to evangelist **Richard Ames**, director of admissions.

"We expect as many as 900 will eventually submit completed applications for entrance to Ambassador as freshmen for the fall of 1986," Mr. Ames said.

All applications submitted to the Big Sandy campus, which is closing in May, were transferred to Pasadena, said the evangelist.

The Pasadena Admissions Office contacted applicants to Big Sandy to find out if they want to apply to the Pasadena campus for the fall of 1986. The responses have been overwhelmingly positive.

"All applications for the fall semester of 1986 should now be mailed to the Admissions Office in Pasadena," commented Mr. Ames.

The college plans to accept "as many of the current Big Sandy freshmen as possible" for the fall semester. The college plans to accept any remaining Big Sandy freshmen students, for whom there is no room this year, in the fall of 1987 as sophomores, if they qualify, said Mr. Ames.

Responses to the Italian-subtitled *World Tomorrow* program continue to climb, ac-



JANUARY GRADUATION — Four Ambassador College students received their degrees Jan. 7 at ceremonies in the faculty lounge in Pasadena. Pictured are (from left) Lesley Stainthorp and Gilbert Javier, associate of science; Wesley Evans and Anthony Styer, bachelor of arts. [Photo by Warren Watson]

ording to **Carn Catherwood**, regional director of Italian-speaking areas.

"What seemed like a fluke increase of television responses in September has become a trend," Mr. Catherwood said. The September, October and November combined total represented a 58 percent increase over the previous three-month record.

"October was a record-breaking month with 890 television responses; 426 pouring in one week, setting an all-time record," said the regional director.

Seven hundred twenty-five responses were received in November, and though the figures for December are not compiled yet, more than 1,000 are expected, said Mr. Catherwood.

— The Young Ambassadors performed a 40-minute show at a dinner to honor visiting Rotary International president, **Edward F. Cadman**, according to **Ross Jutsum**, director of Music Services.

Southern California Rotary districts were hosts for the dinner Jan.

2 at the Anaheim, Calif., Hilton, next to the Disneyland amusement park.

The live performance included video clips of "Singin' in the Rain" and "Climb Every Mountain" from past Festival films.

The audience also included Rotary presidents and district governors from Southern California, and Chinese delegates who were visiting the Pasadena Ambassador College campus, Mr. Jutsum said.

The Ambassador Auditorium stage crew prepared the stage and lighting for the performance.

Envoy Available

PASADENA — Copies of the award-winning Ambassador College 1985 Envoy are available for \$28 (price includes \$3 for shipping and handling). If you would like to order a copy or copies, please send your request to:

Ambassador College
College Publications
300 W. Green St.
Pasadena, Calif., 91129

Please make checks payable to Ambassador College. Please include the number of copies you want and the address where you want them shipped. Allow six to eight weeks for delivery.

INTERNATIONAL DESK

A WORLD VIEW
FROM CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

PASADENA — Rome, Catania and Milan, Italy, have been officially designated as churches, said **Carn Catherwood**, regional director of Italian-speaking areas.

Sabbath services are conducted three times a month in Italy, alternating between Rome, Catania and Milan.

"Approximately 30 people are able to attend in each area," said Mr. Catherwood, "and the number of new visit requests coming in would indicate good gradual growth in our three small Italian congregations."

Last year the Italian Department here had a record 192 visit requests from Italy and Italian-speaking sections of Switzerland.

"This dramatic increase in visit requests is keeping Rome-based minister **Michael Caputo** very active," said Mr. Catherwood. In mid-November Mr. Caputo conducted a weeklong visiting tour of northern Italy, covering a 270-mile circuit.

"Mr. Caputo considered the tour to be one of the most fruitful so far," said the regional director.

After the tour, nine new prospective members were invited to a Sabbath Bible study Nov. 30 in Milan. "This historic service, with 30 in attendance, was the first service of God's Church to be held in northern Italy in centuries."

Projected growth in Spain

This may prove to be a year of growth in Spain. "We are coming to the point that within a year to a year and a half, we could be conducting some *Pura Verdad* (Spanish *Plain Truth*) Bible lectures in Spain," said evangelist **Leon Walker**, regional director of the Spanish-speaking areas.

"Then there would be follow-up Bible studies," Mr. Walker added. **David Hulme**, director of Media Purchasing, said, "There are some exciting media opportunities in Spain coming in mid-1986 that look promising."

Mr. Walker said he would like to see a nucleus of interested people, "which could lead to visits and perhaps assigning a minister there in two or three years."

Twenty-five Church members live in Spain, with no more than two or three living in any one city.

About 25,000 subscribe to *La Pura Verdad*. "We plan to reach 30,000 subscribers in the next several months and level off there."

"Spain is certainly a country we are concentrating on — it's a focal point for the future," said the evangelist. "We are looking to God for fruit and results."

Canadian WATS

Canada ended 1985 on a record-breaking note. "Canadians have never been in a hurry to call the office, but in November and December we saw more of them using our hot lines than ever," reported **Colin Adair**, Canadian regional director.

The Canadian Office received a record 412 calls Dec. 21 and 22.

"December, 1985, was the highest month ever for WATS responses in Canada with 2,285 calling in," said **Gordon McKill**, data processing and WATS supervisor in the Canadian Regional Office.

"A total of 18,324 calls were received in 1985 — our highest year ever," said Mr. Adair.

A direct-mail campaign that began in September brought in 51,874 responses as of Jan. 3. "This is our highest response yet to a campaign of this nature," said Mr. Adair.

Over the course of the year, the combined Canadian and French *Plain Truth* list increased 10.7 percent.

French Bible lectures

Twenty-four new people attended two *Pure Verite* (French *Plain Truth*) Bible lectures in Mulhouse, France, in early December, conducted by **Olivier Carion**, pastor of the Mulhouse, Strasbourg and St. Avold, France, churches.

Fifteen new people and nine Church members were on hand for a lecture conducted in Toulouse, France, Dec. 8 by **Bernard Audoin**, pastor of the Bordeaux and Narbonne, France, churches.

Mr. Audoin's topic was "Why Were You Born?" After the studies about 60 copies of the *Pourquoi etes-vous ne?* (*Why Were You Born?*) booklet were requested, two couples asked for the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course and a third couple asked for a visit.

Nigerian Festival

The Worldwide News received

the following Feast of Tabernacles report from **Lateef Edalere**, pastor of the Lagos, Benin City and Owerri, Nigeria, churches and Festival coordinator for the Kano, Nigeria, site.

Temperatures hovered at 110 degrees Fahrenheit (43 Celsius) at the site, where 316 brethren attended services in the Bagauda Lake Hotel.

The visit of evangelist **Harold Jackson** and his wife, **Helen**, after being away from Nigeria for more than five years, was a high point. Speakers were Mr. Jackson, Mr. Edalere and **Elijah Chukwudi**, associate pastor of the Lagos, Benin City and Owerri churches.

Lagos YOU members performed cultural songs and dances depicting village life in a performance titled "Africa" YOU girls put on a fashion show, modeling dresses they sewed with the help of their mothers. Fathers and sons played a soccer match.



ROTARY DINNER — Young Ambassadors perform at a Jan. 2 dinner in honor of **Edward F. Cadman**, Rotary International president. The dinner took place at the Anaheim, Calif., Hilton. [Photo by Barry Baker]

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strong opened the meeting with prayer," Mr. Helge said. "The tone of Mr. Armstrong's prayer was

to do is complete, but not the Work of God's Church, which will be faithfully doing God's Work till

can give Mr. Armstrong is to do the Work we've been called to... Let us carry on in FAITH. There is