

Bulletin



of the Worldwide Church of God

VOLUME 4, NUMBER 14

PAGES 173-184

JULY 31, 1973

General News and Comments

MAIL SUMMARIES

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

July 25, 1973

INCOME: The total income year to date as of Monday, July 23 (without considering the special offerings of 1972) stands at 4.0 percent. When the 1972 special offerings are included, the income shows a -2.2 percent.

MAIL: The summer period is taking its toll on the mail count. July will probably be one of the low months for mail during 1973. August should pick up considerably with two different renewal letters and other direct mail responses coming in during that month.

VANCOUVER, CANADA

July 17, 1973

July is proving to be a very good month for the Canadian Work in both finances and letters. Throughout this whole month the year-to-date percentage gain has fluctuated by only one point. Within the next week we should begin to be deluged with mail returns from the 100,000 subscription renewal letters sent out by the Pasadena Headquarters. We expect a 50 to 60 percent response within the next three weeks, giving us six or seven times the normal amount of mail we receive in a month.

MANILA, PHILIPPINES

July 12, 1973

The PLAIN TRUTH probably has been going into the government and the military more than we fully realize. This past week, requests for *The*

PLAIN TRUTH included one from the director of the National Media Production Center, two lieutenant colonels (one of them is a provincial commander, the other is from the military Intelligence Group) and one brigadier general (in charge of containing insurgents northeast of Luzon). Their comments ranged from "Your magazine is marvelous!" "I've been an avid reader of the PT," "Your booklets have been a great help," to "I and my men like to read and subscribe as soon as possible."

INDIAN TOUR

July 11, 1973

First news of the tour in India has come from Mr. Frankel and Mr. Willis who are currently in Bombay. The first visits took place in Bombay at the beginning of last week — two members and a prospective member talked with our representatives. The prospective member, a doctor by profession, had been waiting three years hoping for baptism. That hope was fulfilled as he was baptized, the first on this tour.

Some more good news is that Mr. and Mrs. Kulasingam have been ordained deacon and deaconess in God's Church. This encouraging news for the Church came at a time when famine and drought were rife in India, though the drought has since been broken.

From Bombay they traveled to Sri Lanka, where 19 Ceylonese eagerly awaited them. Six of these were baptized bringing the total membership in that country to 12. Among the six was yet another Fernando, Mr. Chandra Fernando. We now have five Fernandos who are baptized members in Sri Lanka.

Saturday, July 7th, proved a memorable day for the Church of God in Sri Lanka. Four people were

(Continued on next page)

Personal NOTES

BABY NEWS

Clifford and Betty Ackerson (Richmond, Virginia): Betty (who used to be a Riddle, but now is an Ackerson) and I would like to announce the birth of our second child, *Gregory Alexander*, who was born on Tuesday, June 26, at 11:00 p.m. He weighed in at 8½ pounds and measured 21 inches. Labor time was a bit long (11 hours), but everything went off without a hitch. We're all doing fine.

Nelson and Linnea Haas (Charleston, West Virginia): We celebrated the Fourth of July with our third child. A boy, *Nelson Jeremy*, 7 pounds, 8 ounces, 20 inches. Linnea (Vanlanduyt) and baby doing fine. Very short labor with only about 2 hours hard labor. All very happy.

Wayne and Joann Phillips (Greensboro-Roanoke, North Carolina): It was significant that my wife's water broke during the *Watergate* hearings and our nine-month "coverup" was exposed June 8, 1973 at 5:30 p.m. — the moment of truth. Witnesses testified that the evidence was "cute as a bug" and tipped the scales of justice at 8 pounds, 8 ounces and was 21 inches long. We thought an appropriate name would be John (as in Dean, etc.) but since essential "plumbing" was missing we decided on *Heidi Lynn*. All participants are doing fine.

baptized in the morning. Then, after a buffet lunch, Sabbath services were held at which 34 people attended.

After a week in Ceylon, Mr. Frankel and Mr. Willis traveled to Southern India where they spent 2-3 days looking for a suitable site to hold the 1973 Feast of Tabernacles. One man who was baptized had been faithfully saving up his tithes over many months and handed over a check for 300 pounds to Mr. Frankel when he arrived. Mr. Willis has commented at length on the friendliness and open-mindedness of those they have visited so far. This is illustrated by the following two extracts:

(Continued on page 183)

Ministerial

Bulletin

of the Worldwide Church of God

EDITOR

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

GARNER TED ARMSTRONG

MANAGING EDITOR

DAVID JON HILL

Title to this Bulletin is reserved in The Worldwide Church of God and it is loaned only, subject to return upon request. Copyright © 1973 by Worldwide Church of God. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form without permission in writing from the copyright proprietor.

Book Review

Deeper Into Movies, by Pauline Kael, Little Brown & Co., 1973, 430 pages, \$12.95.

Some of my avid readership (both of them, in fact) have requested I include an occasional movie review in this book review column. Although movie reviews are a bit premature for any church publication, Pauline Kael's collection of high quality movie reviews offers a good springboard for discussion on how to wisely choose movies before seeing them, based on one's own entertainment threshold, as well as God's standards of morality.

The uncrowned queen (there is no king) of movie reviewers is Ms. Pauline Kael, whose *New Yorker* column appears each October through March, alternating with Penelope Gilliatt's movie reviews from April through September. It is a tribute to the distaff side of journalism that these women, along with Judith Crist and Louise Sweeney, are considered among the top five to eight movie reviewers in the nation. Pauline Kael, in fact, is generally considered superior to reviewers in any other medium, a kind of female George Bernard Shaw.

This is not to recommend that you buy her overpriced (\$12.95) collection of past (1969-1972) reviews. The 73 chapters covering 158 movies from *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* to *The Godfather* and *Cabaret* — are now of mere historical and literary interest. For instance, you can com-

(Continued on page 182)

WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

WORLD HEADQUARTERS
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
PRESIDENT and PASTOR

OFFICE OF
GARNER TED ARMSTRONG
Vice President

To all ministers:

GREETINGS in the service of Jesus Christ!

I have profoundly appreciated the large number of very warm personal letters received from ministers, employees, and church members around the world. We are experiencing a new wave of enthusiasm and zeal sweeping through the Headquarters church, with everyone in all the departments very much encouraged and going about their work in a brighter and more cheerful attitude than before.

Possibly you may know by now that there has been a slight revision in the structure of the theology courses at Ambassador College. I would like to elaborate a little. All of the key theology courses we have previously taught have, of course, been retained -- with the following undergraduate requirements: freshmen: Church History; sophomores: Old Testament Survey; juniors and seniors: choosing at least two of the following: Systematic Theology (formerly Second Year Bible), Theological Research (formerly Third Year Bible), Comparative Theology (formerly Fourth Year Bible), and Epistles of Paul.

I have felt for some time that as some of our very finest teachers have been occupied by more and more executive duties, we have had to forgo their talents and abilities in the classroom. We are reversing this trend! I am very elated to report that Mr. Al Portune (Senior) is going to be teaching the freshman Bible class at Pasadena this coming year, and, if and when his duties tend to interfere with the class schedule, his son, Al Portune, Jr., can pinch-hit for him. I believe this is an ideal team for that class, especially since Al Portune, Jr. has been working as national coordinator for our church youth programs and now can be working with these young people in the classroom as well.

I am equally very happy that Mr. Jon Hill is going to teach Old Testament Survey once again. Jon has a knack of teaching in such a vivid and graphic way that students have always commented his Old Testament Survey class was one of their very most interesting courses -- everyone has always looked forward to his class. Jon will be assisted by Dr. Robert Kuhn.

Epistles of Paul will be taught by Mr. Dave Albert, Systematic Theology by Mr. John Portune, Comparative Religion by Dr. Ernest Martin, and Theological Research by Mr. Gunar Freibergs.

As of this moment, there are 222 freshmen already accepted for the beginning of college in Big Sandy this year, and 163 accepted for Pasadena. Ron Dart reports that progress is coming along very well on refurbishing the additional booths for student housing, but in the initial couple of weeks of the school year we may have a handful of students sleeping in sleeping bags because of the difficulty in meeting schedules. Work is also progressing satisfactorily (as I'm sure you can read in the Worldwide Church of God News) on the new lavatory and lounge building.

Dr. Germano is presently traveling in Europe and the Middle East, meeting with our students spending the summer overseas. I hope Mike will have an opportunity to stop by and talk with Mr. Charles Hunting, Dr. Meredith, and others on a visit to Bricket Wood, as well as stopping by Big Sandy (or perhaps Mr. Dart and Mr. Kelly will be able to come to Pasadena) so we make sure all of these courses are fully coordinated and that the curriculum is identical on all three campuses.

I have been given a very encouraging report by Dr. Germano which indicates that our heavy budget cuts in the academic area may actually have improved our position vis-a-vis the obtaining of accreditation rather than handicapping it! If we seek to obtain accreditation in a much narrower sense as far as our stated objectives are concerned, then the accrediting association must judge us on the basis of what we plainly state are our educational objectives. Furthermore, it is easy to understand why outside evaluators are especially impressed by the professional expertise of our administrative staff, including Dr. Germano, Dr. Stenger, Dr. Ackley, Dr. Farrow, Mr. Oehlman, Mr. Albert, etc.

I know we will be doing a constantly improving job in training men for the ministry, including the more practical aspects of the ministry being taught by those who themselves have been pastors in the field, as well as honestly facing the fact that Ambassador College also exists for the purpose of offering a good, broad, church-oriented education which will aid many dozens of these young people (who will never be on our own payroll) in becoming viable members of God's Church.

Mr. Charles Hunting conducted a fine campaign on July 21-22 in Regina, Saskatchewan.

Mr. Sherwin McMichael, who was recently appointed coordinator for the campaigns, was emcee in Regina. Each night he introduced the local ministers to the audience as well as announcing the follow-up Bible studies to be held.

Mr. McMichael also asked the audience a number of questions: at least 95% had read the Plain Truth magazine and listened to either the TV or radio broadcasts. So, once again, the campaign was received by a warm, knowledgeable audience.

Sherwin reports: "The two-night total attendance reached 1700 in the Saskatchewan Centre of the Arts auditorium. The Saturday night attendance was 900, with approximately 800 attending the following evening -- a solid 500 of whom were attending for the first time!

"Two days prior to the campaign, Mr. Hunting was a guest on the Lorne Harasan radio talk program in Regina. CKCK is one of the largest stations in the prairie provinces and, undoubtedly, many thousands were listening. There were the usual pointed questions -- doctors, drugs, make-up, and money -- but the program provided the opportunity to separate a great deal of fact from fallacy. We later noted that about two-thirds of the audience had listened to the talk show."

I've been very much encouraged by the steady stream of telephone calls coming in response to the summer television specials. Not only are people requesting literature, but they are freely commenting about their very deep personal and spiritual involvement with what they saw and heard. The letters that have come in have tended to comment along these lines also, rather than just a quick request for literature -- indicating that the emotional and spiritual impact of the television specials has done much to build a real awareness and consciousness of God's Truth and God's Plan in the lives of thousands of people, and that there was a real impact there, not just arousing curiosity to write for a booklet or a magazine. I believe it is this dimension that is the most important one, and all are equally convinced as I am of the absolute necessity of continuing these television specials with a powerful sermon (in addition to the kind of television program that we do on a daily basis).

I am not at the moment planning to conduct quite as many campaigns this coming year -- perhaps only about seven or eight with at least two of the locations to be video-taped -- but this is all very much on a tentative basis and no final plans have been made.

On a personal note, fellows, I feel there has been quite a long and protracted period of time during which literally dozens of us have allowed our minds to wander along dark corridors, with doubts and wonderment about "just what is going on" out at Headquarters and in the Church.

I know some sermons have been preached which have left our congregations in a quandary of wonderment, going away discussing among themselves about "just what he meant." Perhaps this is understandable, based upon the frustration, lack of clear-cut information, and a certain measure of confusion which has existed. We all collectively feel that this is a thing of the past, and we all know now that we can once again rededicate ourselves to the great task and commission we have been given and ensure that we

are properly FEEDING the little ones God has given into our care, treating them like intelligent, responsible human beings.

All of us in the ministry know very thoroughly the quality and the degree of dedication of these thousands upon thousands of our local members -- our brethren -- who, after all, have had their shoulders to the wheel, struggling just as hard, fighting their own battles, sacrificing to the point of real financial pain and suffering in many, many cases. I know we all collectively appreciate their zeal and degree of dedication and all of us feel that it is a great honor and a very grave and serious responsibility to be given charge of the people of God. I hope that all of us will begin to preach really encouraging sermons, especially bearing down on the urgency of the days in which we live, realizing that many were deeply affected by the "1972 syndrome," and that each and every one of us needs to become more aware of the fact that we are much closer now, not farther away, to the final fulfillment of many of these really earthshaking events that we have been talking about for many years.

That's about it for now. There are a whole series of meetings awaiting me in the near future and I'll be getting back to you about the results.

With love and respect, in Jesus' name,

Samuel Lee Armstrong

Financial Affairs and Planning

ALBERT J. PORTUNE

Greetings from the Office of Financial Affairs and Planning! The last few weeks have been the busiest we have experienced in this area for the last several years, and I must confess I am finding it very exhilarating, even if exhausting! More about that a little later.

At the present time, the income seems to be picking up slightly and although the year-to-date increase still shows a negative figure, I am hoping that at least by the end of July we can begin a positive uptrend which will continue until the end of the year. Our best estimates for 1973 show about a 4% increase over 1972.

We are also at the present time going through the 1974 budget exercises and our first look into 1974 does not look too encouraging on the surface, although we are working on some potentials that may help us solve the problem. Our best statistical forecast indicates about a 5% growth in income for 1974, but, of course, this is based on present trends and can be radically affected any number of ways.

Our expenditure problems for the next budget year are somewhat compounded by the fact that we have just about depleted our reserves this year in order to sustain the same operating level, and this trend has to turn around during the next 12 months. If we continue to let our operating reserves drop any further down, the ratios between liabilities could cause serious deterioration of our present very high credit rating. It is, therefore, imperative that we build up a minimum operating reserve based on prudent business practice, and the only way we can arrive at these funds is by reducing our operating monies. In other words, there are certain fixed liabilities that come off the top, so to speak, of our income and what is left over becomes our operating fund or budget. At the present time, this operating budget looks to be about 6% lower than 1973.

This, as I say, is just a first glance, and we are hoping to find ways to rectify this negative operating level in 1974 under 1973 and even, hopefully, providing an increase in those areas which are vital for the growth of the Work. One indicator that we do not want to tamper with, unless it is to increase it, is the ratio of our funds spent in the

Gospel-preaching areas, i.e., radio, television, publishing, etc.

I am presently preparing, or I should say Mr. Brown, whom I have appointed as Deputy Division Head over the Finance Division, is preparing, a presentation for Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong, giving him an overview of the picture from our present standpoint and soliciting his guidance as to what our strategy should be through 1974. I would really and sincerely appreciate your earnest prayers that we can begin 1974 on a solid, firm financial footing and in no way have to cut back the preaching of the Gospel to those millions who so desperately need it.

I am very pleased at the manner in which things are coming together here at Headquarters. With Frank carrying more of the load in the financial areas, I have more time, as Mr. Ted Armstrong's administrative assistant, to carry out the job of coordinating the interrelating responsibilities of the major divisions here at Headquarters. We have been having many long meetings and work sessions together, with all the Division Heads present — namely, Mr. Wayne Cole over the Publishing Division; Mr. Dave Antion, over the Church Administration Division; Mr. Norman Smith, over the Media Division; Mr. Jon Hill, over the Marketing and Subscriber Services Division; Mr. Frank Brown, Deputy over the Finance Division; Mr. Charles Hunting, over the European and Mid-East Theater; and Mr. Leslie McCullough, over the other foreign areas. We have been able to address some of the vital issues and problems which are at the grass-roots level of the Work and which will produce soon some very encouraging, positive growth factors. Mr. Ted Armstrong is vitally involved and is giving us the overall guidance for and with his father. We are really making progress as you will all see in the fruits that will be borne in the future.

We are all greatly encouraged here and feel the future will be brighter and more meaningful than ever. Please keep praying for us here as we do for all of you. How very much we all need that constant help from our Father in heaven, which comes from constant prayer and closeness to Him. □

Church Administration

DAVID L. ANTION

Hello, fellow ministers, and greetings from Pasadena.

We've been away from Headquarters for about three and one-half weeks during our recent Regional Conference tour. Our trip took us to the Corpus Christi church area where we held the Big Sandy Regional Conference — which I'm sure you read about in *The Worldwide News*. We were very happy to have had a reporter and photographer cover the conference with us.

After the conference we visited Big Sandy, where I had an opportunity to visit with Bill McDowell, Ronald Kelly, John Robinson, and the Deputy Chancellor, Ronald Dart. We had some very profitable and interesting talks there and were very warmly welcomed and hosted. Being in Big Sandy also gave us a chance to visit with our family (Molly being a native Texan and from the Gladewater, Big Sandy area).

We also had a very fine visit with Walter Sharp and family in the Big Sandy area. And we had the opportunity to visit with one of our former CAD staff men, Jim Morrison, who is now Mr. Sharp's Administrative Assistant.

While at the Big Sandy campus we had a very profitable visit with John Robinson, Managing Editor of *The Worldwide News*. We talked about how CAD can participate more in contributing various articles from the churches in the field, and in helping to make *The Worldwide News* more helpful and beneficial to our brethren. As Mr. Robinson pointed out, he would like to have as much input from the Church Administration as possible, since the brethren across the United States are the main recipients of *The Worldwide News*.

I hope we can all be thinking of ideas that will help make our newspaper constantly more beneficial, helpful, inspiring to the brethren — and if we will communicate these ideas to Headquarters, I will be very happy to boil them down and discuss them with John. So, we are looking forward to having suggestions from you periodically through your Regional Director. Thank you.

A Potpourri of News

The Chicago Regional Conference was held July 16-18 in the Dells following our Regional Directors Conference (which will be covered later). We had excellent weather and facilities. George Kemnitz and Doc Kessler and company were excellent hosts.

We only regret that we had to leave immediately after the conference to get back to Pasadena, since we had by then been away for three and one-half weeks. We got to meet quite a number of God's servants in this region that we had not met before, and we are looking forward to getting better acquainted in the future.

It has been terribly hot and smoggy here in Southern California. We have had some very bad days, and today is another one of them. A smog alert was declared yesterday and people were asked to restrict their outside exercise and activities. I understand that today government workers have been given the day off in hope that their not driving to and from work will help curb the creation of more air pollution.

After the current price freeze ends, prices will begin to jump dramatically, as is being demonstrated already. I understand that the price freeze on beef will continue until sometime in September, but after that prices are expected to skyrocket!

Knowing that there could well be some shortages of food in the next year or so, it seems to me (and I am speaking personally) that it would pay our people to pick up some good bargains on food-stuffs and canned foods, etc., where they have the opportunity to buy. I understand that because of the canning strike that over fifty tons of peaches have been dumped as waste — just putting them out in the field to let them rot. This was supposed to continue every day, but now I understand that the strike is coming to an end.

With food prices escalating as much as they are, it could save money in the long run to make some good buys on food at this time for future use. Personally, the Antion family is going to try to do just that. We feel that it is a biblical and economically sound principle to set a little aside for possible future hard times.

Regional Directors Conference

During our recent trips we also attended the Regional Directors Conference at the Wisconsin Dells. This conference had been planned since last February. At that time we planned all the Regional Conferences for the entire year, and we

are happy that most of the schedules remained unaltered.

Our next Regional Directors Conference is scheduled for September 10th to 13th at Pasadena. At that time we hope to pick our dates for all the Regional Conferences for next year. We need to schedule all of our Regional Conferences at least six to eight months ahead of time for the sake of our Local Church Elders who attend, since they need at least that amount of time to make their plans and to secure permission for time off from their work.

Ideas From the Conferences

Many exciting suggestions are generated at these conferences. Among the ideas explored at the recent Regional Directors Conference were those having to do with visiting. In the light of gasoline shortages, budgetary considerations and manpower, we basically came to these conclusions about visiting based on surveys taken from among members of churches.

One fact we have established is that most of our members definitely appreciate a personal visit.

After asking church members about their feelings about group visits, all concurred that a group meeting with a minister in a person's home is very valuable. But they felt that these types of visits should not replace personal visits. Phone visiting was also felt to be very good and profitable. But again the members would not want to see it replace personal visits.

This entire report was brought to us by Mr. Raymond Cole. He and others of our directors were asked to do certain studies and reports to present to the entire group on common needs and problems in the field.

On the subject of offices, we heard a very fine report in the Houston area from Paul Flatt. The Houston ministers rented an office out of their own pocket as an experiment to see how well the church responded to a local church office.

Overall, the results were very good. The ministers found their time was used more profitably in doing office work, personal study, sermon and Bible study preparation, etc. They also related that local members felt free to just drop in and visit with the minister. This was an advantage that most members would not take if they had to visit in the minister's personal home. Most members feel that to call your personal home, or to come by, is an intrusion on your privacy. That tends to deter many people from calling for necessary help or counsel.

But with a church office and church office

phone, members felt free to call or to drop by. They knew that they would not be imposing on any personal time or make a family intrusion.

The Houston ministers found that they saw more people in a shorter amount of time — that they were able to answer questions, take sufficient time to visit with the people, and use the time profitably in between visits by doing office work and study.

Again, we are emphasizing that even these office visits cannot totally replace personal visiting in a member's home. But they can very definitely supplement it just like the phone visits can.

At this time, however, we do not have in our budget the ability to provide church offices for all our ministers. Hopefully, in the near future we may be able to work toward this end.

We also had a fine and thorough presentation from Mr. Walter Sharp on the procedures for ordinations. They included when to ordain, who is responsible, necessary forms, etc.

Naturally, all of these presentations were all followed by lengthy and thorough discussions.

Other items were discussed such as ministerial expenses for meals, developing a typical church organization structure for the local church, job descriptions for local church elders, a look ahead in our organization growth, family life in the field, ministerial education and Bible study.

Many of these areas are being worked on now and we hope to have a more thorough understanding of all the needs which will lead to the completion of these CAD action items.

Personal Suggestions

A fine suggestion comes from Dick Wiedenheft on the sending of greeting cards, get-well cards, graduation cards, etc. It certainly can be a very thoughtful and helpful way for the minister to express a little extra concern and love toward the flock of God. A thoughtful graduation or get-well card can mean a great deal to brethren in a local church. Many of these cards can be sent by you or your wife, or they can be sent by an appointed person on behalf of the whole church to one individual.

If any of you have helpful suggestions which you would like to share with other of God's ministers, please feel free to send them in and we will try to see to it that they appear in this column.

The Ministry and You

Over the years God's ministry has learned to relax and use humor from the pulpit. There are many good reasons for this. Humor is a very good

asset in public speaking. It relaxes the audience, it softens any controversial subjects, and it makes for a more receptive and interested audience. It is also a very fine way of overcoming excessive flattery.

For instance, when an introduction is very flattering or perhaps a little overdone, a little humor makes the speaker look more human.

Lyndon Johnson would often say after a flowery introduction: "I wish my father and mother were alive so that they could have been here to hear that very fine introduction. My father would have enjoyed it — my mother would have believed it!"

After a very complimentary introduction, Adlai Stevenson stood up and said: "I was a little worried as Mr. Craig was giving that wonderful introduction. I began to think he was going to introduce Benjamin Franklin."

This type of humor establishes rapport and shows the audience that you are not a "stuffed shirt."

But to be effective, humor must be wisely used. Humor, like anything else, can be overdone. Some caution is necessary. Excessive sarcasm, irony and satire often have an undesirable effect and many times hurts people's feelings.

Another fact with overdone humor is that sometimes people will not take you seriously when you are saying something important. As one preacher put it, "The man who constantly plays the role of 'funny man' in the pulpit is not the person people will come to with their troubles and sorrows. They will think, 'If I tell him, he will only make a joke out of it!'"

When humor is applicable to the subject and natural, and we do not have to go out of our way to drag it into our sermons, then it is a very useful tool for the above-mentioned functions.

So in our sermons, let us strive for appropriate, useful and tasteful amounts of humor to add spice and zest to our sermons, while still maintaining the dignity and soberness with which the Word of God must be spoken.

Until next time, our prayers are with all of you. □

BOOK REVIEW

(Continued from page 174)

pare your reaction to her reviews as you watch the recent movie reruns (such as *Patton*) on network TV. If you like her style and approach, you're better off buying a six-month trial subscription to *The New Yorker* each October.

The main point of this book review, however, is

to recommend good movie reviews. You can't tell a good movie by its rating (G is not always good and R is not always rotten), by its advertisements, or by a casual comment from a friend or associate. Presumably we don't want to waste two to four hours on a hunch, so a ten-minute investment with a trusted reviewer can help redeem that time.

Perhaps you've only seen the cynical movie reviews in *TIME* or *Newsweek*. If so, you may wonder whether critics ever *enjoy* a movie! "Critics," however, are not all "critical" — they are all different. The important point is to find one which, by experience, you *usually* agree with. For example, some publications review movies primarily from a moralistic or family viewpoint. If this is your main consideration, read Louise Sweeney of the *Christian Science Monitor*, or check *Parent's Magazine*.

If you are looking for sheer entertainment, then the radio and TV reviews, along with a news-weekly review or the publicity releases on the movie page are usually sufficient. If you are looking for deeper esthetic satisfaction, however, you must consult a reviewer who goes "deeper into movies," and nobody comes to terms with "our national theater" more eloquently than Kael.

Good movies — only ten to twenty percent of any art form can be considered "good" — produce powerful inner feelings, while bad movies are depressing or disgusting. It is extremely difficult to put these feelings into words — to prescribe a cure for the bad movie or capture in words the inspiration a good movie gives. For a movie reviewer, this is the lonely battle between a piece of paper and a piece of celluloid film.

The great reviewer captures that feeling with well-chosen words, and that is an art in itself. Maybe she'll have to pan 80 percent of all films in the process, and suffer counter-criticism because of it, but honest critics — as Kael explains in a couple of her Part II essays, "Numbing the Audience" and "Notes on Heart and Mind" — must be watchmen for the arts, judging the "ongoing battle of art and commerce."

Mere *enjoyment* of movies is a prerequisite for one who must see them each day, but it's not enough. One must also be edified or *moved* by a movie. That is why a movie you thoroughly enjoy often may be ridiculed by some critics, and that's why Ms. Kael drew such hot criticism for praising *Last Tango in Paris*, although the subject is obviously too sordid for a Christian to see.

If you don't know quite where to start in this process, why not skim a few books by major critics (nearly all of them have books of collected reviews

and overviews) to see which one historically comes closer to matching your likes and dislikes. Then subscribe to the magazine that regularly carries his or her reviews. Third, clip out all reviews as they appear in all publications you receive, file them, then draw them out for further reference when the movie comes to your area.

You should continue checking the ratings and the advice of friends, but also consider the advice of another bevy of "friends," the movie reviewers. It will save you time, money, and regret.

— Gary Alexander

MAIL SUMMARIES

(Continued from page 174)

"We, from the Church in Bombay, were blessed immensely by the visit of Mr. Richard Frankel and Mr. Owen Willis. We had a very fruitful time together, and God introduced to us a new member, Dr. Sudir Chandar. That brings our membership in Bombay to 5. We met Mr. Willis for the first time. We were really tremendously impressed by him — blue eyes, red hair and all! We are all eagerly looking forward to our first Bible study class on the 28th of this month and also the Feast of Tabernacles. It will be the first time for us in India. We are all really eagerly awaiting the time.

"Mr. Frankel also told us how all of you in the mail reading section know each one of us personally. So, that makes writing to Ambassador College doubly meaningful."

Prince A.,
Bombay, India

"Thank you for giving me the opportunity of meeting your ministers during their recent stay in Colombo. It was certainly a pleasure to renew acquaintance with Mr. Frankel and also to meet Mr. Willis on his first visit here. I now look forward to meeting them and their families at the Feast in October this year."

D. F.,
Colombo, Sri Lanka

LETTER COMMENTS

MR. ARMSTRONG'S TRIPS

Almost all of the comments received about Mr. Armstrong's trips have been encouraging and positive. Here are a few sample letters.

It Takes God-Given Strength

"I'm forever grateful to you for being such a good ambassador of peace and goodwill in a world

of so much evil. Yes, it takes God-given strength and faith for such a task. I don't think there's anybody else in this Work who is so qualified and has accomplished as much as you have in this Work. The honor given you by the Japanese government and others, so testifies. My congratulations to you and also my prayers."

Virginia V.,
Aguadilla, Puerto Rico

Hopes Bible Study Is a Success

"I am so thankful that your visit and talk to the Japanese government was so successful and that you have received such a grand reward, and I hope and pray that your Bible study with the Emperor's brother will be just as successful. Wishing you good luck in all your work, and may it bring lasting peace and friendship to all nations."

Mrs. Sara S.,
New Ringold, Pennsylvania

So Much Accomplished With So Little

"I'm absolutely amazed at the *worldwide* scope of the Work in which you direct. God Himself must sit in heaven and smile down upon all of you. I once heard that your overall budget (yearly) was approximately 40 million dollars. If this is the case, our Great Creator must be using this money the way Christ used the five fishes and five loaves of bread to feed the multitude. May He continue to be with you all in these most crucial times."

Bob B.,
High Point, North Carolina

TV SPECIAL RESPONSE

This week, television station WTTV-TV in Indianapolis, Indiana sent us a package of letters concerning the TV Specials. These letters had been sent to the station in appreciation for the Specials. The rest of our letter comments in this Bulletin are entirely from this group of letters.

"I sincerely hope this letter reaches the right desk, for I am writing this note to inform station WTTV of just how much our entire family of four thoroughly enjoyed the Garner Ted Armstrong Special at the 7:30 time slot. We simply cannot wait until he will be on daily — we are not 'religious nuts,' but we all agree that this country, and the world, needs more programs like the one mentioned above. Thank you very much."

Mrs. Woodrow F.,
Attica, Indiana

"I am a salesman and I travel to many cities in Indiana. On July 12 (Thursday) and July 13 (Friday), I happened to be in the homes of two of my best customers when a program on your channel started. It was about or produced by the same people I receive a magazine from monthly (at no charge). I have heard Mr. Armstrong once before when I was in Cincinnati in 1969. I was very surprised to see him on television in Indiana.

"With the permission of my customers, I was able to see this one hour special both nights. It was quite good for me because 1) I don't watch much TV and 2) I was in the middle of what I consider to be a very important sale. But for some reason we were all very much glued to the TV set.

"I was very impressed at how this man could hold the attention of the audience and myself included, as well as how he conducted a one hour program with no *notes!* I am not one to listen to Billy Graham or to Oral Roberts. I usually turn people like that off. But I was very much inspired and motivated, or should I say, deeply moved, by his program.

"Please let me know if you will be having the daily TV show he spoke of, on your station. I am hoping to see more of this type of *truth* on your station. I thought this program was an eye-opener!"

Robert H.,
Lafayette, Indiana

"I have just watched three marvelous nights of Garner Ted Armstrong Specials! I understand he also has a daily TV show. Could you *please!* carry those also? I think this is really a *terrific* show! Please do what you can to bring him to Indianapolis TV."

Becky S.,
Lebanon, Indiana

"I wish to express my sincere appreciation for the Garner Ted Armstrong Special. I *do* hope there will be others in the future."

Vera L. S.,
Lebanon, Indiana

"Many people here in Crawfordsville enjoyed the 'World Tomorrow' program by Garner Ted Armstrong. Hope you will have this program on seven days a week."

Mrs. La Fern S.,
Crawfordsville, Indiana

"We want to thank you very much for airing the Garner Ted Armstrong Show on July 11, 12 and 13th. We enjoyed the presentations very much!"

Mr. & Mrs. James K.,
Columbus, Indiana

"This letter is to express our appreciation for being able to view the 'World Tomorrow' TV Specials with Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong. We listen to him regularly on the radio and we have wished several times that we could also see him via TV.

"The chance to see as well as hear Mr. Armstrong and to hear his timely messages was very enlightening. We understand that Mr. Armstrong has a daily half-hour TV program and we would like to ask you at this time to consider having this program if it is available to you.

"Again thank you so much for the opportunity to see the Specials and please keep up the good work with your programming. We enjoy the variety of programs that you offer the viewing public and we appreciate this way of expressing our views to you."

Mrs. Forest L. A.,
Terre Haute, Indiana

"We would like to tell you how much we enjoyed the Specials aired last Wednesday, Thursday and Friday nights by Garner Ted Armstrong. We think he is a wonderful speaker. We think the world needs someone who is not afraid to speak out, and who does not water things down to suit anyone and everyone. We would be very glad to see the regular programming which he mentioned being in some areas. I know that others of my friends and relations would also like this. Thanking you for the Specials."

Mr. and Mrs. Cecil C.,
Indianapolis, Indiana

"This is to thank you and let you know how very much we appreciated the three one-hour programs with Garner Ted Armstrong, July 11, 12 and 13. We do hope there will be more to follow. We need this type of program. We, and many of our friends and people around here would welcome a daily program featuring Garner Ted Armstrong."

Albert and Mayse D.,
Knightstown, Indiana