

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

One of the duties of the pastors of God's Church is to be especially careful to keep the brethren informed and looking to headquarters, which is wherever God's Apostle is working. One way we can do this is by using the Pastor General's Report as a source for late news in the announcement portion of services, and even in sermons as it would apply. It can also help keep the brethren appraised of policies and decisions which affect them. For example, the last Pastor General's Report (October 23, 1979) contained policy announcements about the blessing of children and applause in church services.

The amount of time spent reading or commenting on portions of the Pastor General's Report should be up to the individual pastor's discretion. He can decide what and how much is applicable and newsworthy to his particular congregation (i.e. you may have already spoken about clapping in services). But the more we can help God's people to progress together in understanding as well as unity, the more we are fulfilling our great calling and responsibility to Christ in helping His Apostle prepare the Church for His soon return.

God's people also need to be kept up to date with the ongoing legal battle in California. Although it tends to be complicated (from a technical standpoint), it can be understood in general terms. And so the brethren worldwide need to know what to be praying about. They need to understand that this confrontation is being used by God beyond our wildest imagination to help get our commission done. Through the lawsuit the Church is becoming a household name in California and gradually the entire nation. God truly can and does make "all things work together for good"!

Talking to the ministry at a luncheon in Tucson during the Feast of Tabernacles, Mr. Rader acknowledged that those of us without legal training have trouble following the lawsuit and the terminology. "So," he said, "we will try to use terms in our reports that convey the full meaning of the case, and you in turn can use whatever language you think is necessary if further refinements have to be made to get the brethren to understand and appreciate the complexities of the lawsuit."

--Joe Tkach

ORDINATION NOTICE CARDS

In the Pastor General's Report of a couple weeks ago it was mentioned that the ordinations of the fall festival season would be announced in the Worldwide News. Before we can release the information to the Worldwide News staff we must receive the Ordination Notice cards. To date we have received very few. Please be sure to send these cards in soon. Delays will not only hold up the announcement, but we cannot order the appropriate certificates of ordination without the ordination notices.

--Ministerial Services

ROD MEREDITH ON SABBATICAL

Mr. Roderick Meredith has taken a six months sabbatical in Hawaii from his duties as Dean of the Faculty of Ambassador College.

Mr. Meredith has served the Work faithfully for 28 years, and I don't recall that he has ever had such a respite from hard work in all those years. We are looking forward to his return, rested, refreshed, his physical and spiritual batteries recharged.

During his absence Mr. Leon Walker has again been assigned as Acting Dean of Faculty.

--Herbert W. Armstrong

INTERNATIONAL NEWSFeast Summary

Excellent Feast of Tabernacles reports are being received from around the world. Mr. Colin Adair, Regional Director for the Philippines, reports a massive 33.7% increase in attendance there, and a combined offering increase of 21% to accompany it. Total attendance at the five sites throughout the Philippines was 2,768.

Australia also reported a fine offering increase of 15.9% and attendance at their seven sites was up 13.1% over 1978, on the Last Great Day. Attendances of 39 in Sri Lanka, 104 in India, 212 in Malaysia and 60 in Burma were recorded in Asia.

Canada reports a very fine Last Great Day attendance of 8,665 which was up 15.9% over last year, and an offering increase of 33.4% to accompany it! Reports are still arriving from other areas of the world.

Fiji

Beginning with the 20th of this month, a month-long advertising campaign was commenced in Fiji, designed to double our mailing list there. An advertisement offering a 12-month subscription to The PLAIN TRUTH is being placed each day in one of the two leading newspapers. Already for the first ten days, 1500 responses have come in and more are pouring in each day. Plans for similar advertising campaigns in other Pacific Island nations early next year are also underway.

--Rod Matthews, International Office

"CONVERSION" REPRINT SERIES DOING WELL

During September we began advertising a reprint series on the subject of conversion to PLAIN TRUTH subscribers who renew their subscription. The reprint series leads from the "milk of the Word" to "meat" in explaining the concept of conversion--from the time God calls an individual to the time he becomes a member of the Church. The series does not try to convert anyone, but rather explains vital spiritual principles that can aid people who are responding to God's calling.

The series is pulling marvelously! As of this writing, we've received 8,659 letters in seven days--for a 19% response. It is possible that over the next few weeks the response rate could climb to 25% - 30%!

This very good response shows that people we are reaching ARE interested in learning more about the Bible and their relationship with God. Through God's calling, the fields are "white unto harvest."

New Literature Catalog Results Look Good

Results from the newest Literature Catalog also bear out the extent of interest in the Bible and life's questions which people have.

Last month we began mailing the 5th edition of the Literature Catalog to new people added to the mailing list. So far, we've received over a 13% response--the highest received in over a year from catalog mailings.

The current catalog advertises 19 pieces of biblically-oriented literature. Half of all responses ask for the booklet "Are We Living In The Last Days?" --which continues to be the number one piece of lit requested by new people. There is a tie for the second most-requested category between "How To Study The Bible" and "The Ten Commandments."

These responses reaffirm the fact that God is continuing to stir people's attention toward His Word. We anticipate more of this type of response as Mr. Armstrong continues to powerfully proclaim the Gospel of God's Kingdom to the world.

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

PUBLISHING SERVICES UPDATE

We have mentioned before our continual search for the most cost effective methods of adding new people to The PLAIN TRUTH list. In the marketing and promotion fields we have to be open to new ideas and not be emotionally tied into pet projects which may have been around for many years. With this in mind we are putting together some facts and figures of various new methods of acquiring new PT readers so Mr. Herbert Armstrong can give direction on the best way to use our publishing resources over the next year.

One relatively new idea for the PT is the use of simple little subscription promotion cards. These 3 1/2" x 5 3/4" cards are attractively printed in full color and they offer a free subscription to The PLAIN TRUTH. A colorful card holder has been designed to be pinned on a notice board or attached to a wall, etc. We are testing this in various outlets ranging from universities to supermarkets, and we hope for some good results. If after the test we get the final O.K. from Mr. Herbert Armstrong, we will be offering this promotions system to local church areas.

--Roger Lippross

MAIL COMMENTS

In April this year Mr. Armstrong's new booklet, THE PLAIN TRUTH ABOUT HEALING, was mailed to 37,865 church families. This inspiring booklet clearly shows how God's people can and ought to have sure, positive, unwavering faith for healing and for God's intervention in other areas of life.

As expected, we have received a number of encouraging letters from very grateful people who have had their faith strengthened and renewed after reading the booklet. People have received God's blessing in healings and in other ways as well. In addition to comments about the healing booklet, we have included an account of how members help one another.

--Mail Processing Center

Response to "The Plain Truth About Healing"

I just finished reading the booklet recently sent out on "Healing." I felt I should write and tell you how much that booklet was appreciated. It seemed there had been so much confusion and contradiction regarding healing, I wasn't sure what to believe anymore until reading this new booklet.

The booklet couldn't have arrived at a more needed time. Reading the truths you showed, especially concerning faith, helped renew a fading faith in my own life. I had been worried that perhaps God had deserted me, when the problem was obviously a lack of real faith on my part that God would strengthen me to fight sin in my life and make me able to understand His Work.

--Ralph Giddens III (St. Louis, MO)

I want you to know that I was deeply inspired by the new "Healing" booklet you wrote. It helped me learn much more about faith since my conversion 6½ years ago. I am not ill, but I applied all the principles of faith to waiting on God for our house to sell, and reading the booklet along with the Bible has helped me to understand so much more, and for that I am deeply grateful.

--Mrs. Chris Beam (Wheeling, IL)

I have been studying the revised booklet on "Healing." How blessed we are that you are teaching again that God and God only heals. Truly there has been in the last few years a pronounced lack of faith in God for healing us! Everyone was seeking the doctor rather than requesting anointing.

In my family God has performed some fantastic miracles! He healed me completely of Bell's Palsy, gave life to my grandson born at 29 weeks rather than 40, and has given him perfect eyesight and all physical abilities and mentality. In fact, he is as normal as the full-term baby. He healed my mother of a terrible muscular disease that was incurable.

--Mrs. Cynthia C. Cook (Phoenix, AZ)

Thank you for the booklet, "The Plain Truth About Healing." It encourages us when we read and know your experiences and how God has healed you and your family when sore trials were upon you. Thank you again.

--Mrs. Della Leona Peters (Economy, IN)

I feel a strong need to write to you now. I just finished reading your booklet on "Healing" and it is tremendous. It is restoring the real true faith once delivered.

It seems we have gotten ourselves away from the Almighty God who wants us to depend upon Him and Him alone. All of these self-help things we have been directed to--not in just the medical field, but in everything--causes us to fall farther and farther away from God, until we begin to wonder just what we do believe.

It has taken a long time for this thing to spread through the Church and it will not go away quickly. The mind is a very complicated thing, but in the hands of God it can be put back into the right working order.

All of these self-help things may be great progress for the world outside of God, as that is all they have. But for those of us who know God, we understand how He cares for us; we know His promises to never leave us or let us down, but to help us in every situation whether it be physical, mental or spiritual. Why would we ever want to leave all of that and turn to the world's self-helps?

Man is so very limited. God is completely unlimited. Our minds can't even grasp the extent of it. Yet God is holding it all out to us saying, "Take it, it's yours." We are just required to reach out and take it. Why turn down all of that and insist upon doing our own thing?

--Mrs. LaVina Johnson (Hutchison, KS)

Your new booklet on "Healing" which I just finished reading has enlightened me in an area where I was obviously needing help. Your Autobiography has forever convinced me that you are indeed the one Christ has chosen for His great end-time commission.

--Mrs. Ursula Clark (Sebring, FL)

Brethren Come to Aid After Home Burns

Satan has really been after our family. Several months ago he caused our new home to burn to the ground while we were attending the Night to be Remembered with Church brethren. It was a very severe trial as we had built the house ourselves and had put three years of evenings and Sundays into building it. We had just finished it six months ago and were starting to enjoy it.

We are very thankful that God allowed us to be away at the time of the fire. However, we did lose our family pet, a toy poodle, which my five-year-old son is having a hard time adjusting to. It has taught us a good lesson not to become too attached or involved with physical things in this life, but rather to get our minds on the spiritual. It's hard starting over from scratch although we did have good insurance, which we are very thankful for.

We are presently living with my father-in-law who is not in the Church. He was shocked at how the people in the Church came to our aid as soon as they heard. I had people shoving envelopes of money in my purse, so many clothes we didn't know what to do with them all. One lady said she didn't have anything to give so she brought us a big cooler full of beef. My father-in-law just couldn't get over the response from Church people when our own family didn't even really help. What a fine example they set for him.

--Mr. & Mrs. Donald Brandes II (Fountain City, WI)