

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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FEAST PLANNING

Mr. Herbert Armstrong has approved the festival sites for 1980. However, there are some contractual arrangements to be verified before all sites are confirmed. We will be publishing all of the locations in the United States in the very near future.

We appreciate the assistance of everyone involved in making recommendations and providing some of the legwork in gathering information for the potential sites.

According to Mr. Armstrong's guidelines to locate festival sites within easy access of church members, we are increasing the number of locations even this year. Projecting into the future, we will probably have even more sites with an average attendance of 3,000 per festival location.

We are already planning the Feast of Tabernacles for 1981 and future years. If you have any suggestions and information regarding potential feast sites, please forward them to me.

--Ellis LaRavia

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Good News from Ghana!

At long last we have a residence permit for Melvin Rhodes and his family, the pastor of the churches in Ghana! The process that was initiated by Mr. Abner Washington, when he was the pastor there in September, 1976, has finally been completed. Melvin received the permit late last month. It's a residence permit for one year with ability to renew after that. In addition, they now have a multiple re-entry visa which will enable them to come and go as needed.

The granting of this permit together with the re-entry visas will save Melvin an incredible amount of time, as they have been existing in Ghana on two-month extensions of a temporary visa. Every time they needed to go outside of the country for shopping or visiting Cameroons, Nigeria, etc., they had to get a new re-entry visa. The wheels of government turn very slowly in Ghana. Added to that was the constant need to chase people about the residence permit. That is now something of the past.

It certainly will make life easier for the Rhodes having that residence permit, and we would like to thank all of those who asked for God's help in this matter. But the problems the Rhodes face are not over by any means. It's just easier for them to handle them. They now can travel to neighbouring Togo (former French territory) to do their shopping as often as they need--within the limits of their miniscule petrol allocation--6 gallons per week!

The brethren in that part of the world certainly do need all our continued prayers. They do face incredible difficulties which are unknown in the Western World. And so they welcome and appreciate the prayers and care and concern of the brethren elsewhere. They certainly reciprocate in their concern for God's Work and His flock worldwide.

--Joe Tkach

PUBLISHING SERVICES UPDATE

We would like to bring you up to date concerning the printing and distribution of Mr. Armstrong's book, THE WONDERFUL WORLD TOMORROW, to The PLAIN TRUTH list. If you remember, this book was offered several months ago in Mr. Armstrong's semiannual letter mailed to subscribers of The PLAIN TRUTH worldwide.

The book is, at the moment, being printed here in the United States and we will be distributing 255,500. This figure is the amount needed to fulfill our requests on a worldwide basis.

There is a good reason why the printing and distribution of the book for the overseas areas is also being handled from the United States. After looking at all the postal figures, we found that it was cheaper and faster doing it here in the U.S. because our international postal rates are still cheaper than some other areas' domestic postal rates.

The book will be printed and inserted into a carton, labeled and put into the mail here in the United States for the following areas: The United States--146,000; Australia/New Zealand--27,000; Asia--15,000; United Kingdom--8,000; South Africa--15,000; Canada--17,500; Philippines--5,000; Europe/Scandinavia--5,500; all other areas of the world--4,000. We hope to have the book in the mail by the end of March.

MAIL COMMENTS

This week's comments focus on Mr. Armstrong's January 23rd co-worker letter and Mr. Gerald Waterhouse's visits to local churches.

H.W.A. Letter of January 23rd Encourages Readers

After having completed reading the letter from you, I was filled with a sense of urgency to overcome now more than ever. With myself, it seems Satan is trying so hard to present obstacles that will prevent me from doing God's will. But this only certifies the fact of the necessity to pray and fast more intensively than ever.

--Mrs. Morris Owings, Jr. (Sylacauga, AL)

I received your four-page most important letter dated January 23, 1980. No one on this earth but you knows the important truth of what is to happen. I thank God the Almighty Creator that He has given His only apostle all this truth. In turn, thank you for passing it on to me.

No one cares but you and all your people. We love you and our prayers constantly are for God's Kingdom and your health.

--Teresa Cruz (Pasadena, CA)

I read with renewed vigor your letter to the co-workers of January 23, 1980. I have robbed my savings account and am enclosing a check. World events are speeding so rapidly I'll never miss the money and I am happy to have a part in this great Work of God.

--William Boone (Augusta, GA)

Thank you so much for the inspiring January 23, 1980 letter. It was just what I needed and so full of encouraging prods to help keep my mind on track when Satan tries to fill it with multiple cares of this world.

--Gary A. Bastie (Ocala, FL)

Now I have your good letter of the twenty-third telling us the state of the Church worldwide and the world crises in light of biblical prophecy. Your letter is full of encouragement. I always leave your letters out on my desk for several days, reading and rereading until I feel I have thoroughly digested the contents and the corresponding Bible references.

--Betty Rakasz (Springfield, MO)

I received your letter of the 23rd of January. It sure brought more light to me about how Russia is acting in the Near East. You must have a lot of people getting you information from all over the world. Also, I didn't know you have so many churches all over the world.

--William Brown (Clearfield, PA)

Enthusiastic Over Mr. Waterhouse's Visits

Mr. Gerald Waterhouse gave a very inspiring Bible study on backing God's apostle and about the place of safety a few weeks ago. With world conditions as they are and the doors to these larger nations being opened to you, it must be time for Christ to return very soon. I hope and pray we as God's people are going to be ready for that return.

--Mrs. Charles Eavenson (Ellisville, MS)

After hearing Mr. Waterhouse in Columbia last night, I won't wait until the first of the month to send in my widow's mite! I have a new zeal and a keener desire to do all I can to help get the message out.

--Mrs. Clenard Arrowood (Asheville, NC)

Mr. Waterhouse held a Bible study at the Moulton church and it was so very, very thrilling to hear the message he brought to us! How wonderful to have men like him (and the other inspired ministers, evangelists, etc.) working with you and behind you in this end-time Work, so fervently proclaiming the true message. I am indeed grateful to you and these men for these efforts.

--Mrs. Marcheta Godwin (Madison, FL)

I have just heard an inspiring sermon by Mr. Gerald Waterhouse in which he strongly admonished us to support you (Mr. Armstrong) and your efforts to proclaim the Gospel of God's Kingdom.

New information was revealed to us which confirms even more that you are Christ's end-time Elijah warning the nations of this world of Christ's imminent return and preparing the Church as a beautiful bride to be presented to Christ.

--Malcolm Thomas (Perry, FL)

Mr. Gerald Waterhouse evokes responses deep and true in the hearts of all of us who hear him. He is not only a Water-house. He's an open, portable hydrant, fluently pouring out the waters of life to satisfy our thirst for knowledge. He gets us rolling again with the push of zeal he receives from God's Holy Spirit.

--Doris Payne (Fort McCoy, FL)

It was so good to hear Mr. Gerald Waterhouse here at St. Pete. His message gets better every time we hear from him and just makes me pray for God's Kingdom to come soon.

I hate what this wretched world is doing to everyone, even us. Thank God we have His Spirit and truth to lead us and give us hope or it would be unbearable to live in this society.

--Carol Bratwick (Dunedin, FL)

Please thank Mr. Gerald Waterhouse for us and let him know how very much we enjoyed his Bible study in Florence, North Carolina. What a powerful speaker! And so much spiritual meat! We are truly blessed to have such wonderful teachers in the Body of Christ.

--Edith E. Wilson (Hope Mills, NC)

We are looking forward to seeing and hearing Mr. Waterhouse this Sabbath in San Angelo. It was great when he was our regular minister, but I know everyone needs to hear his great messages.

--Mrs. George Hill (Lohn, TX)

Last night our church area here in Texarkana had the great opportunity to hear Mr. Gerald Waterhouse. He gave an inspiring talk that lit a fire in all of us. It helped us to better understand how God developed you for the very purpose you are serving.

--James Neff (Texarkana, TX)

ON THE WORLD SCENE

AMERICAN DIPLOMACY HITS NEW LOW--IF THAT'S POSSIBLE: Official Washington has another layer of diplomatic egg on its face. A supposed "failure of communication" on Saturday March 1 resulted in America's Ambassador to the United Nations, Donald McHenry, casting a vote against Israel in the U.N. Security Council, on a resolution calling for Israeli withdrawal from settlements in the occupied West Bank including East Jerusalem.

President Carter later renounced the vote, saying the U.S. should have abstained instead because of the resolution's references to Jerusalem.

(It is U.S. policy to deal with Jerusalem as an issue apart from the rest of the West Bank). He claimed that all references to Jerusalem specifically should have been deleted before the resolution came up for a vote.

The vote--and its subsequent repudiation--reaped the whirlwind for the U.S. from both sides. The Israelis denounced as "repugnant" the original vote and dismissed an apologetic letter from President Carter. Reaction to the apology in the Arab world was predictably angry. Mr. Carter was accused of giving in, during this election year, to the Jewish lobby. Secretary of State Vance tried to take the heat off both the President and his hand-picked U. N. envoy, McHenry, by accepting responsibility. As a result no one knows who or what to believe. The credibility of the Carter administration has suffered another blow.

It was a blow Mr. Carter could ill afford, coming as it did after a whole series of foreign policy lumps and diplomatic snafus. The quality of U.S. diplomacy is at its lowest ebb ever. Less than a month previously, President Carter dispatched boxer/entertainer Muhammad Ali on a delicate diplomatic mission to Africa. He was sent as Mr. Carter's own official envoy in an attempt to drum up African support for a boycott of the Moscow summer Olympic Games. (This was in itself somewhat hypocritical. When 27 Black African nations boycotted the 1976 Montreal games to protest apartheid, the U.S. counseled against mixing sports and politics.)

Ali's mission was a first-rate disaster. He had no understanding of African perceptions, prejudices, and sensitivities. Despite coaching by dismayed travelling aides provided by the State Department (which strongly disapproved of the trip), Ali did not know how to handle hostile press questioning.

In Dar Es Salaam, Ali was informed by Tanzania's government newsmen that the Soviets were not viewed in such a bad light, since they support "national liberation" movements on the continent. The teacher ended up being student. Said Ali: "You all have given me some questions which are good and are making me look at this thing different...To me, Russia's a bad country. But I don't know what Russia did for you...I'm learning. You're teaching me. Look, I'm no traitor to black people...I'm not here to do nothing against Africa. I'm not here to promote no role for America." Some official envoy.

The next day, the president's special emissary told a press conference in Nairobi, Kenya, "I'm not Carter's whuppin' boy. I'm not selling America or American policy..." In an oblique reference to the Afghanistan crisis, Ali added: "The two baddest white men in the world are the Russian white man and the American white man and if those two start fighting, all of us little black folk goin' to be caught right in the middle."

Having received an earful of African objections to continuing U.S. relations with South Africa, the president's personal envoy told the Kenyans that he was henceforth devoting his life to crusading against South Africa and on behalf of all oppressed peoples. "I'm no longer in boxing," exclaimed Ali. (He has since come out of retirement for the umpteenth time, lured by a \$14 million dollar gate.) "I'm going out as a warrior for Allah...The number one trouble spot on the planet is racist, devilish, slavery [sic] South Africa."

Tanzania's President Julius Nyrere (Mr. Carter's African penpal) refused to see Ali. He was clearly offended that his friend in the White House had dispatched what he considered a buffoon--selected solely because of the color of his skin--to discuss international policy with him. Yet another example of America not taking Africa seriously.

In a related misjudgement, President Carter appealed to over 100 heads of state, via personal letters, asking for their support in boycotting the Moscow Olympic Games. South Africa's Premier Pieter Botha received a letter too, but could hardly be expected to offer support. South Africa has been barred from the Olympics for the past twenty years!

The mistakes continue to pile up. The feelings of other nations are blissfully ignored. President Carter, for example, has just nominated a prominent Mexican-American, Dr. Julian Nava, to be U.S. Ambassador to Mexico. Dr. Nava is an educator and former member of the Los Angeles School Board. He has no diplomatic experience. He was selected solely because of his race--also hopefully securing for Mr. Carter the political allegiance of Hispanics. However, Mexico is not impressed by this act of condescension. The ruling circles of the Mexican government, almost entirely of white European-Spanish stock, look disdainfully upon American Chicanos, highly educated or not. They prefer to deal with the basic U.S. "Anglo" stock, more representative of U.S. power circles in business and government. Hence, another black eye for Washington.

Nevertheless, Dr. Nava (an acknowledged expert on Mexican history) certainly will do a better job, if Senate approval is forthcoming, than the present U.S. Ambassador to Singapore. Former South Dakota governor Richard Kneip was appointed to that post by President Carter in 1978. As related recently to the press by a former aide, Ambassador Kneip, when he took up his post, didn't know who Chiang Kai-shek, Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Helmut Schmidt and Giscard d'Estaing were. He was unaware that India and Pakistan had fought a war in 1971 ("What was that all about?" he reportedly asked). Worse still, Mr. Kneip didn't know there were two Koreas--and once, during a discussion of the resurgence of Islam, asked "What's Islam?"

Key Factor in National Power

The number of examples that could be given highlighting the low state of American diplomacy are almost endless. A book could be written on the undiplomatic utterances of Andrew Young alone. And a couple of volumes on the disastrous "human rights" policy.

How important to a nation is the quality of its diplomacy? It is, along with quality of government, the most important factor of all. It gives life and animation to all others (which are: geography, national resources, industrial capacity, military preparedness, population, national character and national morale). "The quality of a nation's diplomacy, says Hans J. Morgenthau in Politics Among Nations, "combines all those different factors into an integrated whole, gives them direction and weight...." Mr. Morgenthau continues:

"Diplomacy, one might say, is the brains of national power, as national morale is its soul." How desperately lacking both of these factors are in America today. God prophesied, through Isaiah (chapter 1, verse 5)

that "the whole head [government and its diplomacy] is sick and the whole heart [national morale, or soul] faint."

Mr. Morgenthau concludes about the importance of diplomacy: "If its vision is blurred, its judgment defective, and its determination feeble, all the advantages of geographical location, of self-sufficiency in food, raw materials, and industrial production, of military preparedness, of size and quality of population will in the long run avail a nation little. A nation that can boast of all these advantages, but not of diplomacy commensurate with them, may achieve temporary successes through the sheer weight of its natural assets. In the long run, it is likely to squander the natural assets by activating them incompetently, haltingly, and wastefully for the nation's international objectives."

God gave us plenty of natural assets (see Genesis 49:25-26)--but poor statescraft is dissipating them rapidly.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau