

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



VOL. 3, NO. 21

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

MAY 22, 1981

H.W.A. DIARY

by

Robert E. Fahey

Wednesday, May 13th, was the first day of the two-day Australian ministers' conference. Almost all the Aussie ministry, even local church elders from across the vast continent, were there to hear and meet Mr. Armstrong. Attendance was 101 ministers and wives.

H.W.A. had been experiencing some difficulty with his heart in the mornings on the trip, but he wanted to be with and speak to the assembled church leadership. So even though he was not feeling the best, he took the morning meeting to kick off the conference.

He began by explaining the overview of God's purpose in giving mankind physical existence. God gave humans a temporary consciousness for a time of character building. The material goods and physical knowledge we accumulate during this time will be of no use to us in the Kingdom of God. All we will take with us is the CHARACTER that we build during this brief, physical existence. Godly character is the qualifier for LIFE! (You may wish to read John 5, 6 and 10. It will have new LIFE in it!)

Then he began to explain to the ministers how he sticks to the OVERVIEW and that he expects us to back him up and fill in the details so the flock will have a complete understanding of God's way of LIFE.

But just as he began to get specific about the minister's job, he told us that his heart was beginning to trouble him and that he would have to stop. He decided to stay right in his chair. He asked for oxygen to help him breathe more easily. Aaron Dean went to get the oxygen and I told everyone to take a break. Mrs. Armstrong and I went to him to offer what help we could. Everyone in the room prayed, asking God to give His Apostle STRENGTH. After about 10 minutes, Mr. Armstrong stood up, began to rotate his shoulders, walked around the room swinging his arms and lifting his ankles under him to increase circulation. The meeting was reconvened. Mr. Armstrong took his chair again and continued where he left off--but his power seemed to be doubled! The people I talked with afterwards said they were all thinking of the same Scripture--Zechariah 4:6!

He then said our job was to feed the congregation under our charge the spiritual food of GOD'S WORD. That is what enables God's children to GROW! He said that is wasn't enough that we all speak the same thing--we must all speak the RIGHT thing--that which is right in God's eyes. If any minister had a question in which he felt Mr. Armstrong was wrong in some way, he should not begin spreading it among the membership. He should discuss it first with his church pastor or Mr. Morton. If those men could not help him, the matter should be taken to Mr. Armstrong. If the man were right, Mr. Armstrong would acknowledge the point. H.W.A wants to be in complete

agreement with Christ--right in God's eyes. If the man were wrong, provided he was in a right attitude, Mr. Armstrong would show him where he was wrong. In this way we would all speak the same RIGHT thing.

At lunch several couples joined Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong at their table. Actually, many ministers and their wives got acquainted with the Armstrongs over lunch or dinner during the Australian trip. That is a blessing too few elders have had recently. Where possible, Mr. Armstrong is trying to make himself available for this kind of fellowship. He is as eager to know the ministers as they are to know him.

Mr. Armstrong asked me to take the afternoon session while he sat in the audience--in the front row! Man, does that help your prayer life! I covered how God teaches His Church through the apostles and what being "on the track" means. After a coffee break, I showed who the "angel of the church of Philadelphia" is.

The next morning, Thursday the 14th, Bob Morton started off. He expounded on "those that endure to the end shall be saved." He showed how the ministry has to set the example of faith and patience by trusting God and waiting on Him.

Mr. Armstrong took the last 45 minutes of the morning session to give a preview of his 1981 commencement address to be given in Pasadena May 22nd. The title is "Education for LIFE!" That is all I can share at this time. Don't want to steal his thunder!

Thursday afternoon, before Mr. Armstrong returned to the meeting, I spoke for about 30 minutes on maintaining the unity God has been building into the Australian ministry.

After he arrived, Mr. H.W.A. took over the meeting and began a fatherly talk to the assembled ministry. He said he was pleased that the Australian ministry was back on God's track. He was very pleased with what he had found in Australia. He warned all present of the dangers they face when they return to their assignments--exalting the self, seeking a bigger position for self, and getting into a wrong attitude when we don't have other ministers around to fellowship with. He said when we are small in our own sight, God will use us. But if we become big in our own sight, we become very small in God's sight.

There were many other points, but the most important that he stressed was never to leave God out of the picture. So many had left God's Church because they forgot that Christ is the LIVING HEAD of His Church. He is the One who guides and directs this Work and He never falls asleep at the switch. If we forget that, we will drop out. If we are looking to Him, we will endure right to the end--and be given real LIFE with Christ.

Before the conference closed, the Aussie ministers presented Mr. Armstrong a crystal whale with a lonely, worried looking Jonah inside. Mr. Morton said, "We want you to have this as a reminder that as God took drastic action to put Jonah back on the track, so we are grateful that you took drastic action to put us back on the track!"

Then Bob held up a large kangaroo skin that had been signed on the back by all the Sydney members and gave it to Mr. H.W.A.

Immediately after the meeting, Mr. Armstrong and his party flew from Sydney to Melbourne for the final Sabbath in Australia.

On Friday, Bob Morton told Mr. Armstrong the details of certain commercial ventures that were undertaken in the area several years ago. They all failed. A few loose ends remain. Mr. H.W.A. told Bob never to get involved in those type projects again. Bob won't.

He also presented plans for an Australian S.E.P. site. Mr. Armstrong approved the project and the budget in principle.

We had dinner that night with the ministers in the Melbourne area. There were 17 of us sitting around one large table. The fellowship was lively. It was one of the most enjoyable evenings of the trip.

I was pastor of Melbourne from 1966 to 1969 before Evelyn and I were transferred to South Africa. We were very eager to see everyone once again. We had met many Melbournites when we toured Australia during and after the Feast last year. But that was a difficult time. This was a JOYOUS one!

Because we were flying to Auckland, New Zealand right after the meeting, we arrived by cab early so we could see as many as possible. Outside the hall were several people carrying placards against Mr. Armstrong and the Worldwide Church of God. It looked like quite a group until one of the Melbourne pastors, Rod Dean, asked parents who were talking outside the hall to have their children withdraw from them. That left 5 people standing there!

When Mr. Armstrong arrived these dissidents were waiting in the front. They had invited a local T.V. station to film their demonstration. But H.W.A. went to the rear of the hall as planned. The back gave better access to his seat in the front of the hall. If the T.V. station got any footage at all, I would be surprised!

There were 1550 people attending in Melbourne that Sabbath. An additional 270 listened in at Adelaide, Devonport and Hobart. Hobart had line difficulties and had to drop out. But they had been sent a tape of Mr. Armstrong's Sydney sermon for just such an occurrence.

I led the songs and introduced Mr. Armstrong. He gave the same basic message that he gave in Brisbane. Bob Morton felt it was the strongest and clearest message of all. It seemed that way to me too.

Mr. Armstrong left the stage to thunderous applause and went directly to the car. The placard carriers had dwindled to 2 who stood like silent gargoyles beside the car as the Armstrongs entered it. The T.V. crew was long gone. After the car drove away the 2 left quietly. They didn't seem to have any place to go.

We were off to the airport and Auckland, New Zealand!

We arrived in Auckland at 9:00 p.m. local time. It was a quicker trip than usual because we had favorable tailwinds--for a change! Unfortunately, Customs and Immigration were unhelpful. Regional Director, Peter Nathan, was able to meet us at the plane but we had to go through the normal channels for customs, immigration and agricultural check.

A large group of ministers were at the airport to meet Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong. A number of office employees were there also. With the nearly two-hour sermon in Melbourne and the travel time, it was an extremely long day.

Our schedule was tight in New Zealand. Mr. Armstrong wanted to be back in Pasadena within 2 weeks from our departure. We flew after the Sabbath so we would have a full day available on Sunday. Mr. Armstrong was to speak in Auckland at 1:30 p.m. There was to be a television hookup to Christchurch. At 4:00 p.m. he was to talk to the ministers and their wives as he has done on United States church visits. On Monday he was to depart Auckland at 11:00 a.m. after a brief visit to the offices between the hotel and airport.

When Mr. Armstrong arose Sunday morning the pain in his chest was back with force. It was his worst morning of the trip. He was taking oxygen when I entered the room just after midday. He told me he did not feel he could take the sermon and I would have to stand in for him.

Peter Nathan and I realized this heart problem troubled Mr. Armstrong in the morning and usually left later in the day. As it was 10:00 a.m. Sydney time, we decided to postpone the meeting in hope that Mr. Armstrong would recover and take it himself.

Captain Black asked the house doctor to give H.W.A. a brief check to be sure nothing serious was developing. Nothing was. But predictably, the doctor recommended he not attend the meeting.

H.W.A. decided to go anyway. He had not spoken to the New Zealand brethren before and wanted to very much. Additionally, many had come from outlying areas to see him. He went into his room at 2:00 p.m. to dress. But after he had put on a fresh shirt, he felt absolutely exhausted and realized he would be foolish to go.

As I left the hotel room for the meeting, I noticed that Mr. Armstrong had already returned to bed.

I arrived at the hall about 2:15. I explained the morning's events and gave Mr. Armstrong's apologies for not being there himself. I stood in for him the best I could. That is a tough assignment, especially for a group that was so eager to hear Mr. Armstrong in person for the first time. God used him to build His Church doctrine by doctrine, year by year, trial by trial; no pinch hitter can come close. It is just not the same.

Mr. Armstrong was able to speak to the ministers and their wives at 5:00 p.m. All New Zealand ministers were there plus the elders from Tonga and Fiji. He asked that the ministers inform their congregations of his disappointment that he was not able to speak to them himself. Then he covered the high spots of the instruction he gave to the Australian ministers.

That night Mr. Armstrong and his party had a quiet dinner with Peter and Karen Nathan.

The next day, Monday the 18th, Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong toured the New Zealand office. He wanted to see every square foot--and did so! While in Mr. Nathan's office, Peter gave him a complete report of New Zealand and the

South Pacific Islands administered by the New Zealand office. I will include Peter's written overview and a pie chart showing budgeted expenditure for 1981. As you will see, Mr. Armstrong was very pleased with everything he saw of God's Work in New Zealand.

Then it was off to the airport for the flight to Honolulu. This time Customs and Immigration were helpful. We were able to drive right up to the G-II. Two customs men were already on board to stamp our passports. As soon as that was completed, we said goodbye to those who accompanied us to the airport and took off for Hawaii via Pango Pango in American Samoa.

En route in his "office in the sky," Mr. Armstrong completed the first draft of a semi-annual letter to Plain Truth subscribers. That G-II is a real asset to God's Work.

With the exception of not being able to speak to the New Zealand brethren, Mr. Armstrong was very pleased as he looked back on the trip. It certainly was a full one. Even with the two-night stop in Honolulu (where I am writing this), the bathing suit I brought with me never got wet. It did get to jog once in Melbourne!

But Mr. Armstrong was inspired and encouraged by the zeal and dedication he found in God's people "down under." The members were enthusiastic, the offices well managed, working efficiently and financially sound. Bob and Peter asked and were given permission to pay all hotel accommodations while we were in the area. Reports from local ministers say the brethren were also inspired and encouraged because the Pastor General, in his 89th year, came halfway around the world to visit and serve them. Accomplishment, mutual inspiration and encouragement is the fruit of God's way of GIVE!

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GOD'S WORK IN NEW ZEALAND AND THE SOUTH PACIFIC

General Overview

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

The geographic area served by the New Zealand office comprises New Zealand itself as well as the South Pacific Island areas of Polynesia and Melanesia. Although this includes a vast area, the population served is only just over four million people, of which over three million are in New Zealand. Fifty percent of New Zealand's population lives in the northern half of the North Island, and church membership follows this pattern.

The peoples in the Pacific Islands are diverse racially and linguistically. Languages abound, with each little island grouping having its own. Some 300,000 people use French as their principle language. We are able to reach the people using both English and French. Close cooperation exists between the New Zealand office and Mr. Apartian of the French Department. Our minister in Tonga conducts services there in the Tongan language.

This era of God's Work began here with the establishment of the office in Australia. By 1967 a church was started in Auckland, with an office being opened the following year.

Today, God's people meet on a regular basis in fourteen congregations throughout New Zealand. The Feast of Tabernacles is held at four sites, and a Summer Educational Program is held for the youth of the Church, as well as other youth activities. Over 200 young people receive YOUTH 81 magazine and regularly attend church services.

God is continuing to bless His Work in this part of the world as we seek to be "on the track" behind you, His Apostle. Income has been increasing at approximately 30% per annum since January 1979 (1979--28.2%; 1980--27.4%). To date in 1981, income has increased by a remarkable 35.3% as the brethren respond to your leadership. The Work is supported by 635 members, 808 co-workers and 1703 donors.

Church attendance is also growing. At this time we are showing a 9% increase over last year's attendance. The depressed state of the New Zealand economy has caused many members to seek work in Australia. Over the past 3 years approximately one family per month has transferred to churches in that country. If they had remained, the growth would have been even greater.

During 1981, we want to follow your lead in pushing ahead on this final "homestretch" drive in God's Work. The excellent mail figures, and very fine Unleavened Bread holy day offerings (50% up on last year's offerings) show clearly that the brethren have responded to your requests to "prime the pump."

Radio was used in New Zealand up until 1978. This year we have tried to find an opening for the broadcast but without success as yet. However, as we write this report, it is possible that the Eternal is opening that door for us. Television is subject to government control in a way similar to that in Britain, so there are no immediate possibilities of screening the telecast.

Because of these difficulties in securing radio and television openings, we are concentrating our major efforts on building up a large and solid PLAIN TRUTH mailing list.

By the end of August we will have distributed over 680,000 full-color fliers offering The PLAIN TRUTH in leading newspapers throughout the nation. Other newspaper advertisements will be run in New Zealand and the Pacific Islands, and the advertisements you write for T.V. Guide and Reader's Digest could be used here. We are also substantially expanding our PLAIN TRUTH newsstand program.

Currently, our PLAIN TRUTH mailing list stands at 41,000--a saturation rate of just over one person in 100, or one household in every 30 in New Zealand and the South Pacific Islands. This should rise to around 50,000 by the end of 1981.

An interesting indicator of the way God is supporting your efforts is that our renewal responses for The PLAIN TRUTH have doubled this year. Last year they hit an all-time low of 32%. This year our first renewal has produced 33% already. After a second and third renewal, we should be back on the way towards the 60%-plus that the Work used to experience. The results mean that people are now reading and valuing the magazine. The Eternal will undoubtedly call some of them, besides giving a witness to many others.

Thank you, Mr. Armstrong, for giving such a positive and dynamic lead to God's Work. As we strive to follow that lead we know that God will continue to richly bless His Work worldwide.

--Peter Nathan

GOD'S WORK IN NEW ZEALAND AND THE SOUTH PACIFIC

1981 Highlights

INCOME--up 35.3% as of 30th April

HOLY DAY OFFERINGS--First Day Unleavened Bread--up 42.5%
Last Day Unleavened Bread--up 57%

CHURCH ATTENDANCE--up 9%

SEMI-ANNUAL LETTER RESPONSE--25% (7,000 requests for "The Missing Dimension in Sex")

RENEWAL RESPONSE--up 100%

LATEST PLAIN TRUTH PROMOTION--1552 subscribers added in past 4 days

BRETHREN BACK ON TRACK PAYING TITHE OF THE TITHE AND THIRD TITHE

(Pie chart appears on next page)

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FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Local Church Elders Not Required to Pay Third Tithe

It has recently been brought to our attention that many local church elders are unaware of the Church's decision that they are not required to pay third tithe. Mr. Armstrong made this decision many years ago and it had become so accepted as common knowledge that we have neglected to continually inform the new elders of it. This statement should remedy that situation.

Guidebook for Church Libraries Now Available

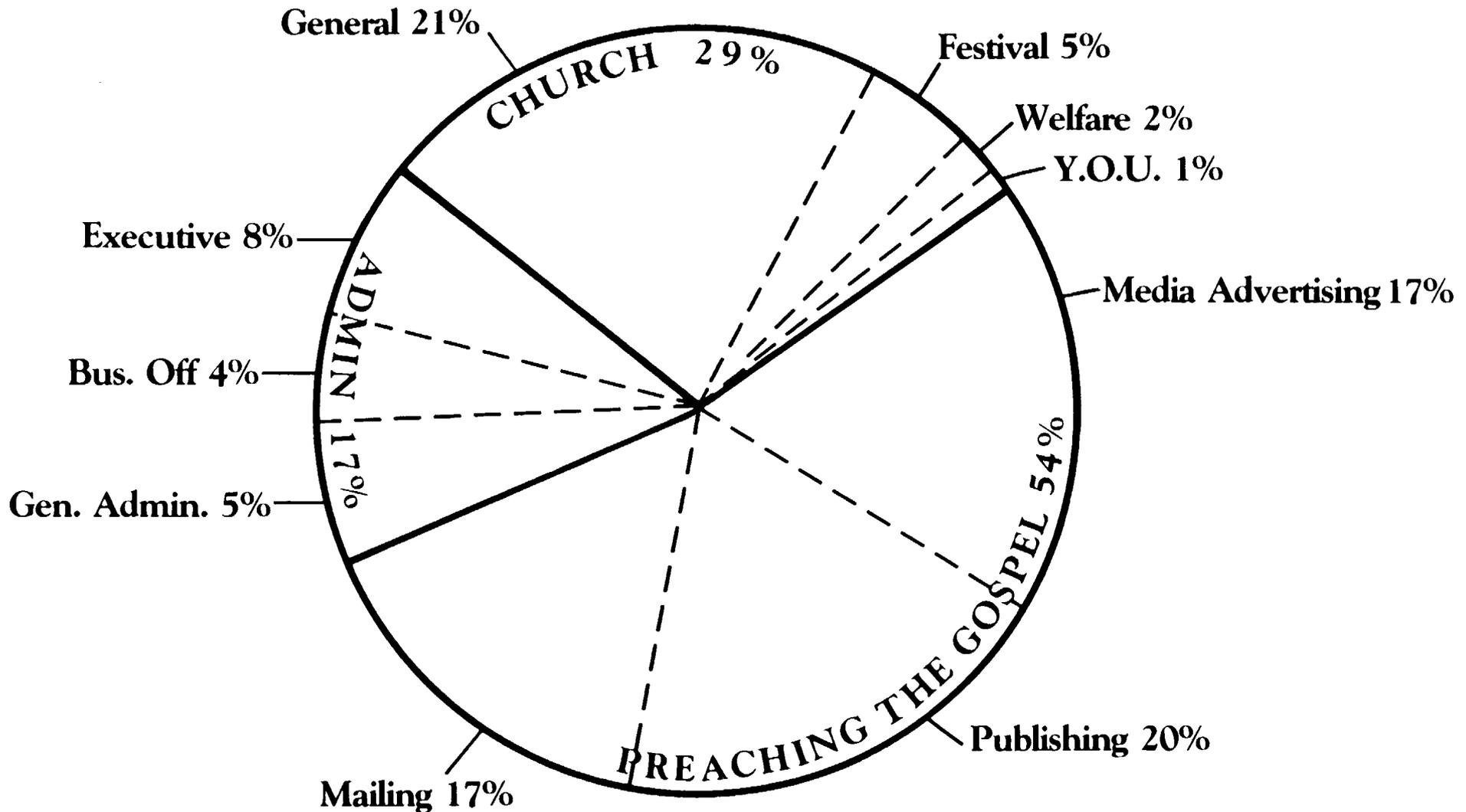
The "Guidebook For Church Libraries" that was produced and distributed last year by Luren Dickinson of the Ambassador College Library, has now been reprinted and is available through the ministerial supply system. Along with other helpful tips on how to run a local church library, it gives a reference list of books that you may want to have in your church library.

International News

Dutch News Greetings from The Netherlands. The highlight of the month of April were the Days of Unleavened Bread. Combined services were held on the Sabbath before the first holy day, as well as on the two holy days of Unleavened Bread, in a comfortable hall in a beautiful country setting outside the city of Utrecht. Offerings for the first and last day of Unleavened Bread showed a 30% and 73% increase over last year.

(Continued on page 9)

NEW ZEALAND – expenditure by function 1981



PT circulation continued to grow as a result of another newspaper flyer insert in 200,000 Saturday editions of the Telegraph in the northern and eastern provinces of The Netherlands. Responses are still coming in. Judging from the responses that have come in until the end of April, we will exceed the 2.5%.

Total incoming mail for April 7289 was pieces compared to 2219 one year ago. Income for April shows a year-to-date increase of 44%. Church attendance has increased 25.4% compared to April one year ago.

Spanish Update Spanish Director's Trip: On April 26th, Mr. Walker and his wife returned from a successful trip to Brazil, Argentina, Chile and Peru. The first stop of the trip was in Rio de Janeiro, where the Walkers were able to visit with several of the members and prospective members of that city.

The next stop was Buenos Aires. There they met Mr. Alberto Sousa (serving currently in Puerto Rico), who accompanied them to Bahia Blanca, the home town of Mr. Luis Chavez. Mr. Sousa then continued on to Salto, Uruguay, where 31 attended Passover services (21 for the first time). A total of 46 met there for services on the first day of Unleavened Bread.

The Walkers then flew on to Santiago, Chile for Passover services and the first day of Unleavened Bread. Their final stop before returning to Los Angeles was in Lima, Peru where they met with Mr. Pablo Gonzalez who had flown in from Colombia, and Mr. Wilfredo Saenz, local minister.

Through the end of April, some 28,940 new subscribers have been added to La PURA VERDAD subscription list. At the present rate of growth we will definitely reach over 100,000 new subscribers--the goal set by Mr. Walker earlier this year. Income for the first quarter is up 33.7%!

New Zealand News This year's Passover and Unleavened Bread festival season was most inspiring and uplifting. God's people showed their heartfelt support for the Work God is doing through His Apostle by giving very generous Days of Unleavened Bread holy day offerings--up by 42.5% and 57.8% respectively. Attendance was over the 1000 mark for the first time ever, showing an increase of 5.4% over last year. The Passover was taken by 607 members--an increase of 2.5%. Although a good number of baptisms are being performed, we are still experiencing a steady flow of members emigrating overseas, particularly to Australia where economic conditions are better than in New Zealand. As a result, the percentage increase in members appears low.

The end of April saw a manpower change with Mr. and Mrs. Colin Kelly being assigned to Singapore to pastor the Church there, as well as in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, after six years service in God's Work here. They will work from the Australian office while working on immigration requirements. To replace Mr. Kelly in the Auckland area, Mr. Neville Fraser is being employed as an assistant pastor. Mr. Fraser has served in a part-time capacity in Auckland for some years.

May will see the beginning of our nationwide series of full-colour newspaper fliers advertising The PLAIN TRUTH magazine. They will appear in the Auckland Star, Dominion (Wellington) and Manawatu Evening Standard on the 11th and 12th of May, and in The Waikato Times on the 13th, with other newspapers following in June, July and August.

Appreciation for the Refresher Program

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

We are really excited with the direction the Work is going. It is obvious to us that God has placed His blessings on His Work and the Ministerial Refresher Program has certainly had a great deal to do with it. Thank you very much for the program and for allowing us to have a part in it.

Our twelve-year-old son, Matt, asked us if you were the founder of God's Work. We explained that you are the human instrument God has used in this era. He said, "I'm glad Mr. Armstrong has allowed us to have a part in it." Our sentiments exactly.

Ray and Peggy Wooten

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Loree and I would like to thank you for the Ministerial Refresher Program in Pasadena that you allowed us to be a part of. We thank God for inspiring you to approve this much needed tool to convey to us the truth of God as He has revealed it to you. Thank you for not compromising with the truth of God all these many years God has used you. All of the instructors did an excellent job in teaching us. We feel for the first time in years that we can go back to the local church areas and know we are all speaking the same thing. Thank you again, and we're looking forward to next year. It was an extra blessing to have been able to hear from you three times while here.

Harold and Loree Rhodes

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

I would like to express my thanks for the privilege of attending the first week of the tenth session of the Ministerial Refresher Program, as well as being my first visit to Ambassador College. To say it exceeded my greatest expectations would be an understatement. My only disappointment was having to leave early.

The instructor in each class taught in unity each doctrine as taught by you. It will provide much spiritual food with which to feed the flock, as well as being better equipped to serve under our local pastor.

The unexpected opportunity to meet you personally, as well as hearing from you in the weekly forum; then again in the last half of one of the afternoon sessions, finally capped off by your inspired and inspiring sermon last Sabbath (May 2nd) really completed the week. We are behind you 100%.

The campus in general, and the auditorium in particular, has to be the most beautiful of any on earth.

Also, a special thanks to Mr. Carlton Green for the physical feast he prepared for us.

Again, thank you for a wonderful and inspiring experience. Am looking forward to the next program.

Jack Jackson

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

We arrived just recently from session nine of the Ministerial Refresher Program, after having spent two weeks with relatives on the east coast.

It was the first time for both of us to travel outside the Philippines. So we do appreciate very much the undreamedof opportunity to come to Pasadena and other parts of the U.S.A.--thanks to God, and to you, for having instituted the Refresher Program! Seeing a bit of your country--and specially the magnificent Ambassador College campus--was a tremendous educational experience in itself. What more has the Refresher Program done for us! We cannot thank you and all the staff behind the program enough for the truly refreshing and inspiring three weeks at God's College.

It was too bad we missed by a week your visit to the college campus. But we felt so good receiving all the doctrinal and administrative instructions, as from you, through the faithful servants of God who lectured to us. We now have a more solid foundation on which to conduct our part in God's Work in the Philippines. I am sure we will be able to serve God's flock here more confidently and effectively in the months ahead.

After the program I had a chance to speak at the Bethlehem, PA and the Union, N.J. churches on two different Sabbaths. We found the brethren there to be genuinely warm, friendly and very positive about the current thrusts of God's Work. Their pastors had been to a previous session of the Refresher Program.

Many thanks again, Mr. Armstrong, for allowing us the matchless privilege to attend the Refresher Program. We're so blessed to be a part of God's great Work in this age!

Pedro and Pacifica Melendez

Mr. Joe Tkach:

We just wanted to say again THANK YOU ALL for a wonderful tenth session of the Ministerial Refresher Program. It's very encouraging to know we're being taught the truth as God revealed it to Mr. Armstrong. This, as you know, has been what we've needed for some time. Thank you for your part on the team that, under Mr. Armstrong's direction, has put this whole program together. The classes have been great. It's good to see the dedication of the instructors who taught us these past three weeks. God's Spirit was evident. Again, Thank you.

Harold and Loree Rhodes

Dear Joe:

We are very thankful for the selection of subjects and instructors for the Refresher Program. We really appreciate the harmony we have observed during these three weeks.

We are just filled with enthusiasm and excitement and are anxious to share this with the brethren when we return.

Because of the glowing reports we had read, we knew the program was good, but it was even better than we expected. Thanks for your part in it.

Ray and Peggy Wooten

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

JACKSONVILLE, N.C.--JOHN A. MOSKEL: Mr. Armstrong's filmed sermon was well done and worth the effort. It pulled us all closer together. We all were also uplifted by Mr. Waterhouse's sermons on the last day of Unleavened Bread. God has really used him to instill loyalty in the brethren.

MANHATTAN, NY--FRANK R. McCRADY JR.: The Churches really appreciated seeing and hearing Mr. Armstrong. Many were moved to tears and an outward show of emotion. They love him and certainly enjoyed his message, along with Bob Fahey on the last day of Unleavened Bread.

BIRMINGHAM (AM), AL--KENNETH M. MARTIN: The Holy Days have been outstanding this Spring! Mr. Armstrong's film was a source of great inspiration to the brethren! It made the first Holy Day extra special to hear from God's Apostle! Seven Churches were combined in Oxford, Alabama and were happy to hear from Mr. Richard Rice as a guest speaker from Pasadena!

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C./FLORENCE, S.C.--PAUL KIEFFER: Many positive comments about Mr. Armstrong's sermon on film. People remarked how sharp he was. Also much appreciation for the combined service here, since the Jacksonville and Raleigh churches have many members who used to attend here. People are wondering when Mr. Armstrong will come to Charlotte for a combined service. Mr. Waterhouse's visit to Fayetteville this month was much appreciated. For a fairly rural area we had a very good turn out for his study, which I was very happy to see.

People in Florence are interested in prophetic happenings. Mr. Armstrong's recent member letters and WN articles have people more aware of the world in which we live and the time factor for God's Work. As in Fayetteville, there is much desire to see Mr. Armstrong in Charlotte or someplace else on one of his combined church meetings.

RICHMOND, VA--KENNETH GIESE: The offering on the first day of Unleavened Bread averaged \$23.75 per person. Total offering increased 94% over 1980; average per person increased over 66%! The brethren have their hearts and treasure in God's Work and God is blessing them and the whole Church!

MICHIGAN CITY, IN--RAND MILLICH: The spring Holy Days were kept with Elkhart. The offering was the highest ever given in this area! They were 33% and 40% respectively higher than last year. Considering the poor economic conditions in the area, this was a tremendous effort by the brethren.

ROANOKE, VA--ROBERY PERSKY: our many problems with unemployment and financial difficulty are beginning to leave. God is beginning to bless.

Three unemployed men have now gone into business and are booming with success. Several others have received significant raises. The tide seemed to have turned when I urged the congregation to pray for a 30% financial growth in the area. God has answered.

LEXINGTON, KY--RAY WOOTEN: Everyone seems to be on an emotional "high" right now. This is because of the holy day season--Passover, etc.--and people are just drawing closer to God. We have sent an official invitation to Mr. Armstrong with more than 1,000 signatures requesting his visit to this area. Everyone is certainly excited about that possibility.

MIDDLESBORO, KY--MEL DAHLGREN: We really appreciate every issue of The PLAIN TRUTH and GOOD NEWS; they are spiritually power packed! Our thanks to those who are allowing God to work through them in providing these sermons in print form.

TUPELO, MS--ROGER W. WEST: Good growth. Have baptized 3½ times more people in the first 4 months of this year than last year. The offering on the first holy day was the largest ever taken up in Tupelo.

COOKEVILLE, TN--DARRIS McNEELY: A few members who had dropped out of the Cookeville church several years ago have now returned realizing their need for the Church.

Weekly Letter Comments

Mr. Armstrong's recent telecast showing why Easter is pagan prompted several first-time viewers to write, expressing how much they appreciated hearing the truth expounded. Many were impressed by his frank, straight-forward approach. In our last selection of comments brethren share the many ways God has blessed them while faithfully obeying His law regarding third tithe.

New Telecast on Origins of Easter Sparks Interest

Having just returned from sunrise services, I turned on your program and was surprised, and rather guilty, to find out that what I did was wrong. I listened very hard and tried to put things together as you were explaining about the resurrection and what Easter meant.

Please send me copies of your booklets on the resurrection and Easter so my pastor and I can study them.

I enjoy your TV program and think that you are the most honest speaker and pastor I hear these days. Thank you and God bless.

Mrs. J. G. (Niles, MI)

I watched your program for the first time and I tell you honestly, I will never miss another one. You are the first pastor I've seen on TV that really got down to what the Bible says and really explained it. You also don't make a person feel uncomfortable and guilty for not having money to obtain highly needed information.

I will tell everyone I can about your program.

Thank you for being frank and straightforward. If more TV pastors were like you, I know we would have a better knowledge of the Word of God. I would very much like to have the pamphlets you offered--THE RESURRECTION WAS NOT ON SUNDAY and THE PLAIN TRUTH ABOUT EASTER.

Mrs. S.H. (Hot Springs, KS)

I'm very sorry to admit that we have never seen your program and the Easter program was our first. It was about the most honest, inspiring and "tell-it-like-it-is" sermon that my husband and I have ever heard.

I want you to know that I believe we're not far off from those "last days" and I feel it's such a pity that so many people live only from day to day and have such a self-centered "me-myself-and-I" attitude. I think your program will get quite a few people "off on the right foot," so to speak, when it comes right down to the true meaning of religion. Also, I feel you're doing all that is in your power to wake a lot of people up and bring them "back to reality"!

Mrs. K.M. (Parker, KS)

Third Tithe Year Blessings

This is our fourth third tithe year and God is blessing us as usual. It seems like I've got all the business I can handle right now and may have to hire more help to keep up.

I have a small construction company, and while the construction industry seems to be going down nationwide, mine is going up. I give God the credit for our success.

J.C. (San Antonio, TX)

At the end of the 1980 festival season, my family and I entered a third tithe year.

In early December, my wife lost her job, and since I am a free lance writer and communications consultant, we were without a regular income. But we didn't lose faith. We depended upon God's promises, and like the loving, outstanding Father that He is, He has simply poured blessings upon us.

Spiritually, our family is closer to God and each other than we've ever been. We have been given opportunities to grow and to use God's Spirit that are absolutely mind-boggling.

Financially, God has blessed us so that within two weeks, after going into January and February with no income, we have been able to pay off our family vehicle, clear a loan and pay the rent through October.

Professionally, my wife and I have joined together in the consultant business, and things are going well.

We are looking forward to more and more blessings, not because we necessarily deserve them, but because our Father is a rewarder of them who diligently seek Him.

M.J. (Charlotte, NC)

God has been so true to His Word during this third tithe year. In the past, I have taken it upon myself to go back to work during our third tithe years. But now we have a son who is three years old. My husband and I realized that perhaps we had robbed God of the chance to show us how He would bless and prosper us during a third tithe year. So I have remained at home where I belong and watched the blessings pour in.

You can never make a budget work out on paper during a third tithe year, but somehow God always provides just what is needed at the right moment. As my husband says, we need this "year of faith" every third year in order to keep from drifting. We have learned many lessons so far--and it has only been six months. We still have six more months to go in which to be blessed. God certainly is a God of His Word.

Mrs. R.T. (Pineville, LA)

--JOE TKACH, MINISTERIAL SERVICES

HOW YOU CAN ADVISE
COLLEGE APPLICANTS FOR 1982

****IMPORTANT****

We have just completed another successful year at Ambassador College. In fact, we feel this has been the best year of the College for many years. We hope next year will be even better, and we know that--with God's continual blessing and guidance--it will be.

Graduation exercises are to be held on Friday, May 22nd. All of us are looking forward to hearing Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong give the Commencement Address.

Advice to College Applicants

Recently, Messrs. McNair, Ames, Kelly and others of the College were discussing certain problems which come up as a result of receiving late applications. The following suggestions should help you in advising future applicants how they can make sure they get their completed applications to us in plenty of time next year.

1) All applications to enter Ambassador College at Pasadena should be sent to the Admissions Office, Ambassador College, 300 West Green Street, Pasadena, California 91123. Last year, some sent their applications to various ones not directly connected with the Admissions Office, and as a result there was some delay in our receiving them. Example: One application was sent to Mr. Leon Walker while he was gone for about a month to Latin America, and did not get into our hands until after his return to the United States.

2) The new DEADLINE for getting completed applications to us will be March 1. Last year the majority of the applications were completed and sent to us by the end of February. Applications received after that time are much less

likely of being accepted for the following college year. So please urge all applicants to be sure and get their completed applications to us by March 1.

3) Encourage the applicant to send us all pertinent information, forms, test results, etc. Applicants with incomplete applications will not be seriously considered until we have all pertinent information. Here is what is required to be submitted:

- a) A completely filled out application form, including an autobiography. (Preferably submitted in November or December.)
- b) The results of the applicant's physical examination.
- c) High school and/or college transcripts.
- d) S.A.T. (Scholastic Aptitude Test) results. It is very important that you ministers inform any future college applicants that the S.A.T. exams are given in November or December. Students must make arrangements to take these tests about two months in advance.

If a student does not take his S.A.T. exams early enough, the results will be delayed and we will consider his application incomplete. Applicants who have at least a year of college by January 1982, are not required to take S.A.T. tests, but it may be to their benefit to do so anyway.

e) A Ministerial evaluation--a VERY important item needed to complete the application. We rely heavily upon the evaluation of the local ministry. Encourage the youths in your congregation to let you know they are applying.

A ministerial evaluation form is sent to the local pastor upon receipt of the application and autobiography. However, you as the local pastor may submit an evaluation of the applicant as soon as you know he or she is applying.

No January Freshmen Applications

Also, it is good to know that Ambassador College does not accept new students in January. We do allow, however, those former students of Ambassador, who are qualified, to reapply for January admission. Only readmits may be accepted into Ambassador in January. All others must apply to enter Ambassador College at the beginning of the fall semester.

Big Sandy Applicants

Specific procedures for 1982 Big Sandy applicants have not yet been worked out. More information will be available at the end of the summer once the Big Sandy campus is in operation. In the meantime, inquiries of a general nature can be directed to the Admissions Office in Pasadena.

Diploma in Biblical Studies

In case anyone asks, you will need to know that the Diploma in Biblical Studies is no longer being offered to entering students.

Disappointed Applicants

We can be very thankful for Mr. Armstrong's concern for the youth of the Church in deciding to open the Big Sandy campus, thus enabling more students to attend Ambassador this year. Three hundred very fine young men and women will be entering Ambassador at the two campuses this fall. However, there are another 350 qualified applicants for which we have no room, and approximately another 250 who really are not qualified.

What can you do to help these 600 applicants, most of whom will be disappointed?

1) **HELP THEM TO ACCEPT THE REALITIES OF THE SITUATION.** Although the applicant may be qualified, there was space for only 300. The chances of acceptance are one in three. In some cases, the pastor will have to encourage the student who failed to qualify to enter Ambassador College toward more vocational and/or professional training. Mr. Armstrong is very supportive of skill development whether it be secretarial, architectural, engineering, accounting, etc. Look for upcoming articles in YOUTH 81 on the subject. It also should be noted that in the first major review of applicants held on February 13, 1981, the average combined S.A.T. score of those accepted was 1,040. We do accept students on occasion with S.A.T. scores under 800. That is not the only factor taken into consideration, but it is an important one.

Those intending to take the S.A.T. test in the Spring of the year should understand that the November and December dates are preferable. We had even accepted 20 students by January 1, 1981. Thus, while the May test date (the June test date is on Pentecost--Sunday--this year) was too late for consideration for fall of 1981, the applicant is in a good position to be considered for 1982.

2) **BE UNDERSTANDING.** Let the prospective student know you do understand his or her disappointment. Then encourage them to go on to apply the seven laws of success. The pastor will want to help you turn around negative attitudes of resentment and feelings of supposed injustice by pointing out that Christ is in charge, and if He wants the applicant to be at His college, the student will eventually be accepted. In the meantime, the student can grow through participation in the local Spokesman Club, Women's Club and other Church-related activities. The warm personality and encouraging words from the pastor can have a significant and beneficial impact.

The main goal in life is the Kingdom of God (Matt. 6:33), not Ambassador College. Help them to keep their eyes on the goal and to be supportive of the Work Jesus Christ is doing through His servant, Mr. Armstrong!

We of the College administration and faculty at Pasadena again wish to express our appreciation for the gratitude which you ministers have shown to see Ambassador now back on track. We have received many positive comments from the ministers attending the Ministerial Refresher Program. We greatly appreciate your enthusiastic support of the College--as evidenced by the fact that we have received about 900 applications to enter Ambassador for the 1981-82 college year.

We have accepted 194 students to the Pasadena campus and we hope we will be able to accept a few more. But at this time, it looks as though we will be able to accept very few more for the fall semester of 1981. Admissions for Pasadena was basically closed as of April 23rd.

Mr. Ronald Kelly, Dean of Students of Big Sandy, recently joined the rest of the Admissions Committee in Pasadena for the purpose of reviewing the Big Sandy applications. Already, 72 freshmen students have been accepted for Big Sandy for the fall of 1981. We plan to admit approximately 100 freshmen for the 1981-82 college year.

Thanks for your prayers, and for your enthusiastic support of Ambassador College. We are here to serve God's Church.

--Raymond F. McNair, Deputy Chancellor, Pasadena

--Richard F. Ames, Director of Admissions, Pasadena

ON THE WORLD SCENE

POPE RECOVERING, POPULARITY SOARS The scenes appeared to reenact the events surrounding the attempted assassination of President Reagan a month-and-a-half earlier. On May 13, Pope John Paul II was struck down by a gunman in public and rushed into emergency surgery at a nearby hospital in Rome.

Similar to Mr. Reagan, the Pope seems well on the way out of the critical post-surgical period. While damage to his intestines was considerable, the Pontiff is expected to recover completely. Since no major organs were struck, John Paul should suffer no serious long-term consequences, doctors say now.

Similar to President Reagan, but even more so, the Pope has benefitted from a swelling tide of sympathy. Notes Time magazine: "The outpouring of anger, outrage and sympathy for the fallen Pontiff was all but universal--far more extensive than it had been for Ronald Reagan six weeks before. Explained Amos Barak, a young Jewish businessman in Jerusalem: 'Shooting presidents, that's politics, that I can understand. But shooting the Pope--it's like shooting God.'" (He ignored the fact that throughout history more than 30 of the 264 Popes have met violent deaths, though since Renaissance times the Popes have generally escaped harm.)

The worldwide explosion of grief and affection illustrates the extraordinary impact John Paul II has made upon all peoples of the world. "No prior Pope, not even John XXIII," adds Time, "has touched so many people of all creeds. Indeed, during an era that knows great political leaders only in memory--Churchill, Gandhi, Mao, Roosevelt--he is the premier personality on on the world stage."

When the Pope recovers completely, as expected, he should have an even greater impact on world affairs, given the impetus of the sympathy factor. He has many things he wants to accomplish. "He is maneuvering for some kind of accommodation with Peking," continues Time. "There is talk of a papal intervention in the Palestinian problem. John Paul has a deep sense of the shifting currents and challenges of history. He speaks and thinks often of carrying the church to the year 2,000."

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau